



WORKS IN PROGRESS

"If you want peace, work for justice." Pope Paul VI

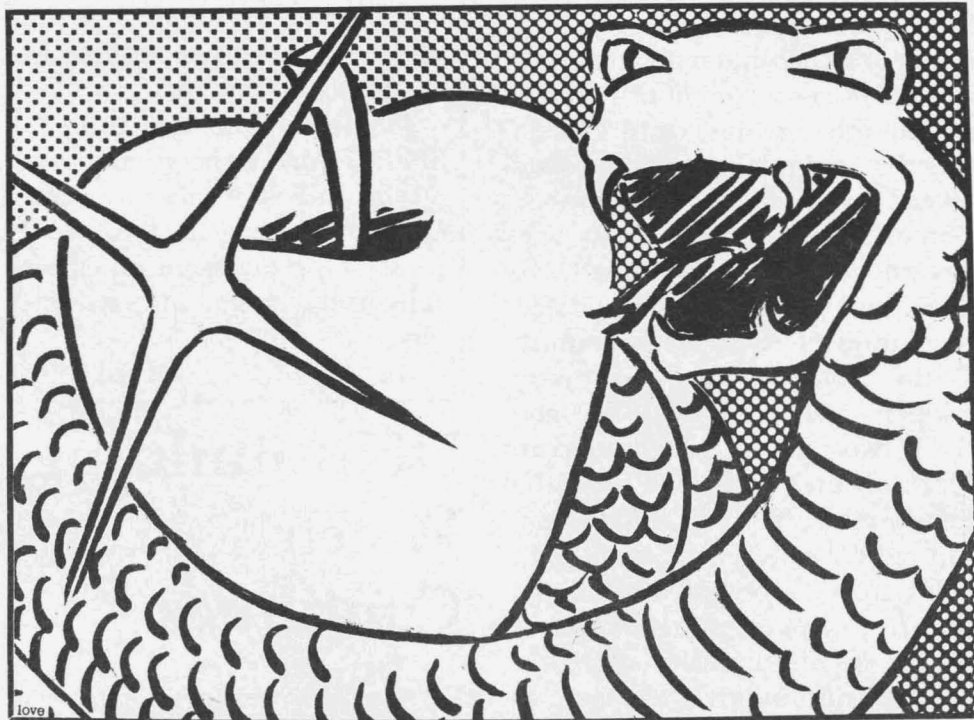
by Kimberly Wilson

Farm workers in this state are consistently exposed to hazardous pesticides in their work place. They now have been included by Industrial Insurance, but the Department of Labor & Industries has been so unresponsive that most workers have had a difficult time to receive even minimum compensation.

A survey by the United Farm Workers of Washington shows that of 156 Yakima County farm workers exposed to pesticides, 75% of the workers were exposed in apple orchards, our most famous crop. These farm workers are coming into contact with these pesticides in a variety of ways: pesticide residues on trees and fruit during thinning, pruning and hand harvesting; pesticides that drift from other fields; and premature re-entry after pesticide application. The risks of this exposure is compounded by the lack of showers on site.

Dr. Marion Moses, considered by many to be the nation's leading authority on the health of migrant farm workers, testified before the Toronto Board of Health that farm workers' "children are at great risk as well. Infants and toddlers are often taken to the fields by their parents since child care is not available. Rapid growth, higher metabolic rates, larger surface area, increased absorption and decreased elimination of certain chemicals, combined with less mature detoxifying systems, can make children

Pesticides Threaten Washington Farm Workers



more susceptible to adverse health effects from pesticide exposure than adults.

The most dangerous of the pesticides to which Washington farm workers are exposed are the organophosphates (Guthion, Parathion, and Lorsban). These poisons, which break down quickly and do not leave any visible trace of residue, can even more quickly and easily be absorbed into a farm worker's body through inhalation,

ingestion, and skin contact. They are extremely toxic nerve poisons that cause nausea, stomach cramps, salivation, respiratory difficulty, muscle twitching, convulsion, coma and respiratory arrest. (These same pesticides have had disastrous effects on wildlife from bees and birds to natural predators.) Parathion, according to *chemicalWATCH*, "is notorious for the number of poisonings it has caused in this country and abroad, especially among farm workers. As little as ten-thousandths of a gram can kill a child." In the hot and dry climate of southern California, the state has to set Parathion application re-entry standards for workers up to 90 days long. Studies have shown that Parathion can cause retinal and nervous system damage as well as thyroid tumors. There are also indications that Parathion poisoning can result in "brain-wave and sleep-pattern and behavioral changes which have been noted up to a year", losses of memory and libido, and an inability to concentrate.

Dr. Moses has also stated that "while poisoning of farm workers is a great concern, not all pesticides are acutely toxic. They may pose instead a more insidious threat of chronic ill health to farmworkers and their families. Such effects from long-term, low level exposures are

more worrisome from a public health point of view since there are not likely to be any signs of a problem until it is too late."

Other states (i.e. California) already have in place the hygienic standards Washington farm workers are demanding. We need to make this happen in our state.

Centro Campesino, a farm worker organization based in Granger, Washington, and the United Farm Workers of Washington are calling on the Legislature through the Department of Labor and Industries and on the apple industry to:

- * Mandate industrial hygiene practices in the field to reduce the pesticide exposure risk to farm workers such as providing protective clothing, laundering and showering facilities for pesticide-contaminated clothing and emergency treatment.

- * Phase out the use of the three most toxic chemicals in the apple orchards, Guthion, Parathion, and Lorsban.

- * Fund and conduct a study to examine and determine the health hazard posed to farm workers from the common agricultural practice of mixing various toxic chemicals together and spraying them as one

Parathion . . . "is notorious for the number of poisonings it has caused . . . As little as ten-thousandths of a gram can kill a child."

application.

The UFW of Washington is asking concerned people to sign a petition to the Washington State Apple Commission and the Washington State Horticultural Association. A copy of this petition is printed on the last page of this issue of "Works in Progress", please gather signatures and mail it to the address at the bottom of the petition. The union is also asking supporters to call their state legislators in support of House Bill 1567 which would enact hygiene standards for the safety of workers who work with dangerous

(Continued on back page.)

Weekend Full of Earth Day Fun & Hoopla

Regina Costa

What is Washington going to be like in the future? How can we ensure that our way of life does not destroy the complex ecological systems that support life itself?

People are flocking to settle in Western Washington. This, in turn, has led to increased development. Forests and wetlands are being paved. Subdivisions are being built on toxic waste sites. A state agency was caught dumping hazardous materials near McAllister Springs, the main source of water for this

region.

Eastern Washington faces a different set of problems. Hanford's bounty will be reaped for generations. A combination of ill-conceived

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irrigation techniques and massive hydro-electric dams on the mighty Columbia River have rendered salmon an endangered species, an almost inconceivable thought.

Proposals to save the salmon are resisted by some because farmers

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Letters



Alternative Gulf News Available

Dear WIP,

For those whose sense of reality differs sharply from that of the Bush administration and mainstream media regarding the Gulf War, finding the kernels of truth and fact in the manage flood of propaganda is often difficult.

Thanks to Peter Moulton, there are two inches-thick ringed binders of alternative news coverage available for anyone to use. These binders are located at SPEECH headquarters, 218 West Fourth Ave, downtown, and at the Asterisk, 233 North Division St, on the westside.

These binders, Gulf War Update, are in five sections:

1. Situation reports from Green Peace.
2. protests--first person reports, national and worldwide.
3. Environmental impact of the war.
4. Media coverage, what the mainstream is and is not telling us.
5. Miscellaneous news items, other details and thought on the war's consequences.

So readers, for those who recognize that Desert Shield/Desert Storm is a fabricated and carefully managed Bush administration crisis dating at least from the disinformation provided to Saddam Hussein by the US ambassador to Iraq in late July 1990 to the current linkage of support for men and women in our armed forces with jingoistic flag-waving support for the Gulf War, here is a local source of healthy corrective information.

Peace, James Holly

PS: This letter has been sent to Olympian, and Impact. Use it if it fits in! Also inclosing a small check to help keep WIP going. You are needed.

Farmers' Market Returns In April

Farmer's Market opens April 6, 10:00 a.m. Saturday in Olympia.

Think global and shop local from your friendly neighbors.

Buy fresh crab, smoked salmon, asparagus, rhubarb, bakery goods, local crafts, bedding plants and flowers while meeting friends for lunch.

Throughout April the market will be open only Saturdays but will be open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in May.

I Beg to Differ, Mr Jette

Dear Sir:

In response to Dave Jette's column February 1991, "Is Marxism relevant to us". Marxism was never more relevant, with the Atomic bombs about to be released, with AIDS, chemical warfare and poisons in the air water, food and all the environmentalists efforts producing little or nothing and countless other organizations and government agencies impotent and causing problems instead of solving them.

The capitalists have nothing to fear from Dave Jette. Many people have a misconception about Socialism. Marx used Communist-Socialist interchangeably until Russia called it communist, meaning state owned and giving the false impression of being Socialist. Russia was never a Socialist Country. Does Dave think once a country has a so called revolution they will give the country to the working class? This only happens in Fantasy land. All who work have got to be educated in Marxism and then take over the mines, mills, railroads, offices, etc. through the ballot box. If this doesn't work, then the general strike. Even the army can't operate if they have no gas, bombs, transportation, etc. The constitution gives the right to change the government by will of the people and by force if necessary.

About Russia putting restrictions on democracy. Would you and assorted capitalists in Russia today, if you controlled the government, give it to workers, do away with money, make gold used only for decoration and give each worker 10 times what he makes today or more? You would not and you know it.

I suggest you read about what real Socialism is. Marx spent all his life studying the working class and the capitalist class, slavery, feudalism, anthropology. He was a scholar, lawyer, and his family was well off. He did not intend for his world to be cut up into hundreds of false doctrines, so that Capitalism could continue.

Any one wanting to know what Socialism really is should read the pamphlet, "You have heard the Lies about Socialism, now Hear the truth." (Socialist Labor Party, 914 Industrial Avenue, Palo Alto, California 94303)

And another thing, Karl Marx's doctrines have had some impact on civilization for no other man shook up the capitalist class or world as much except Jesus Christ. Capitalism and its trappings must go. There is no other way. We are not living in the last century. We are living in 1991 with bombs, tanks, airplanes, atomic bombs, chemicals and an outmoded system. If we do not change sooner or later the planet will become a radioactive cinder and there will not be a capitalist in sight, because they could not risk losing that last dollar even if it meant losing theirs' and everyone's lives.

Yours,
Milton Poulos

Thank You!

Dear WIP Folks,

Enclosed is a check for \$25 for a one year subscription to WIP.

Anyone told you lately that you are doing an excellent job?!

Thank you all for your commitment and competence!

Katy Murray

To WIP-

I love your paper! Keep up the excellent job - you speak for us whose voices are hidden from each other by censorship and lies.

Sharon Kelly

WIP,

Enclosed check is 1/3 the amount of a yearly subscription to Gannett's Olympia.

I'm sending another third to SPEECH for their newsletter, and a third to Fellowship of Reconciliation. Among the 3 of you, please keep me as informed locally as the Nation does nationally.

Paul Gilly

DNR Building Watch Continues

Ed. Note: The following letter was sent by the Olympia Carpenter's to Jack Brown, Assistant Director of the East Campus Plus Program. We thought you might like to keep abreast of the latest happenings.

Dear Mr. Brown:

It is our understanding that difficulties have arisen involving the placement of structural steel elements of the NRB parking garage. It has been said by surveyors for the structural steel sub-contractor that locations of bolts and imbeds for pre-fabbed steel columns and girders are consistently not where they should be (the actual language used was far more colorful than mine). Problems with placing the steel due to "leaning parking garage exterior walls" have been reported to us by workers at the NRB site as well.

We certainly would appreciate a written response from your office regarding these alleged problems, their level of seriousness and whether or not they constitute a danger to inhabitants of the future building or added costs to the state for rectifying, if in fact they exist.

We realize and appreciate that you and the consultants are monitoring this job to the best of your ability. I'm sure you can understand that we have concerns about the work being performed by Hensel Phelps, whose responsibility covers the issues stated above. Like you, we are interested in a quality building, done in a timely fashion, within budget, as well as a structure of lasting beauty that enhances not only the working environment of its inhabitants but the surrounding neighborhood.

Sincerely,
Kim Katwijk, Chair
Local #1148

The Stupifying 100-hour War

Dear WIP,

I received a birthday card from my Mother's sister recently who is about 76 years young and lives in Minneapolis. I want to share with you her comments about the so called "stunning 100 hour war". She says, "We lead such a quiet life (except for when John [her husband] and I have political disagreements). I was against the war and get really upset with the raves of a successful war when 100,00 people were killed - granted, they were on the other side but isn't it hypocritical? So I'd best stay out of that."

I was encouraged, on the one hand, because she was not for this war; most of my family were. On the other hand, I am concerned that she is probably only one of many women, who fear to disagree with their husbands, family and country for fear of having their patriotism questioned.

So many people are silent because they feel isolated and disconnected.

I am questioning the 85% majority opinion and how consensus is achieved in our country.

Thoughtfully Yours,
Patricia Holm

Church Service Dedicated to Community Groups

Dear Rainbow Friends:

First Christian Church of Olympia is celebrating its centennial year. One hundred years of ministry and service as a downtown church has been made possible because of the time and effort of many dedicated members. We are proud that when we have been called upon to "stand up and be counted", we have done just that.

Over the years many local groups have held meetings in the church and we have hosted a wide variety of forums on social issues. We are pleased that the members of your group have found this church to be a place where you wanted to meet. As our way of saying thank you we want to offer you the opportunity to participate in our centennial activities. To that end, the worship service on Sunday, April 7, 1991 will be dedicated to the members of the community groups who meet regularly in the church building. This is our way of thanking you for being a part of the life of the church and to give you the opportunity to be a part of our centennial celebration.

Please plan to join us for Community Sunday on April 7. The worship service begins at 10:45 am. A time to meet the members of the congregation and have refreshments will immediately follow the service.

Arla J. Elston, Pastor
T. Duane Wilson,
Chair of the Congregations

In The Works . . .

Spring is here and so is the April 1991 edition of *Works in Progress*. We are pleased as punch to bring you our second 20-page issue! Thanks to the support of five additional subscribers, an individual cash donation and a \$100.00 contribution from the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP), [formerly the Olympia Anti-Intervention Coalition], we are in good financial shape — for this issue.

Community contributions and supporting subscriptions are still vital for us to continue to publish

each month. Since we print over 3,000 copies a month, trying to achieve a 10% subscription base (or 300 paid subscribers) seems both reasonable and necessary. With a larger subscriber base, we'll be able to mail bulk-rate, at enormous savings to the paper - plus we'll have greater financial resources to continue our growth in the months and years ahead.

You, holding this paper, have gotta do it. Don't leave it for someone else. Sylvia Smith, our coordinator general, says we have to either

publish twice a month, or at least do a 20-page issue consistently. We had enough material for 24-pages with still more material arriving daily. It all boils down to money. Oh for the day when progressives are awash in bucks and the military industrial-complex and multi-nationals (one and the same?) struggle to make ends meet.

We'd like to announce the addition of two advertising representatives to our staff: Dave Campbell and Barb Bellettiere. They are enthusiastically contacting businesses and unions in our community to solicit advertising for the paper. If you want to buy an ad, call Barb at 956-9123 or Dave at 943-1810.

Support our advertisers! Let them know that you saw their ad in *Works in Progress*. Thank them for supporting a struggling alternative community paper.

As always, please keep cards, letters and \$\$\$ coming. This is your paper. Let your voice be heard. Write to Works in Progress C/O The Thurston County Rainbow Coalition.

his grab for the oil and resources of the Mideast. Then, the last battle of mankind shall occur - the Battle of Armageddon - which will be won by Jesus Christ, Himself, as He returns to Jerusalem to begin the millennial reign that the Bible so vividly portrays. Now, all this is to occur very soon - probably by the year 1998, or very soon thereafter. Nobody know for sure. The Psalms

Armageddon Is Near

Works In Progress,

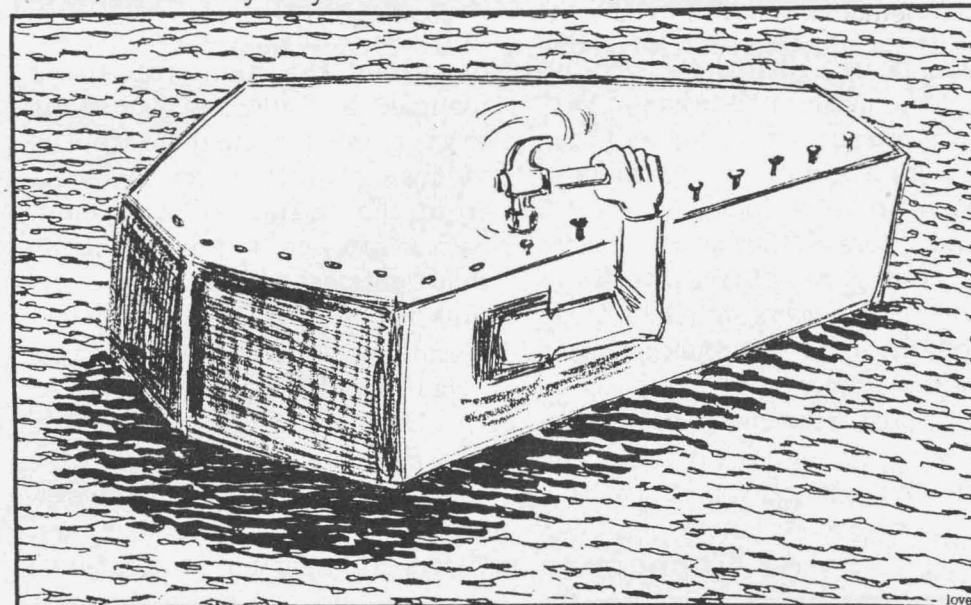
It is good to study both sides of any issue to come anywhere near the truth. I have read the WORKS IN PROGRESS special peace edition and feel that another point of view might be justified in light of the "peace now developing in the Mideast."

First, George Bush is not what he seems to be. He is doing the will of the Trilateral Commission and the Council on Foreign Relations. The root of these groups is the international bankers who are behind it all. They desire power and control through a one world government; a one world currency; and a one world religion that is not Biblical. They are called "The Merchants of Tarshish" in the scriptures. Will they succeed? Read on!

What is occurring in Iraq is part of a larger plan to bring forth some very serious conditions and events in the world. The Iraq war is told about in Jeremiah 50-51 and in Isaiah 13, plus other scriptures. It is an event which brought the multi-national forces together in "Dedan" to precipitate the entry of Russia into the Mideast as a "peace keeper" under the flag of the United Nations. This will fulfill Ezekiel 38 and 39 and will bring us into a direct confrontation with Russia (Eze. 38:11-13) when we ask the question "Have you come to take spoil?" In scripture, the United States is called - "One of the Young Lions of Tarshish" - with Tarshish being England. The question is asked because Russia will be greedily looking at the oil fields and warm water port capabilities they have been desiring for years. Besides, Russia has already publicly stated that she will not tolerate a major western army presence on her southern flank - another reason why she will soon come into Israel and the Mideast.

When Russia is challenged with the question in Ezekiel 38, she will answer by launching a surprise nuclear and scalar attack on the Capitalistic nations of the west - including the USA, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Britain, and Europe. The plan is called the "The Final Push" and was developed by Nikolai Vasilovich Ogarkov - "Marshal of All the Armies of Russia"

and now a Politburo member along with his three top aids. The other members of the Politburo are KGB Generals with in-state responsibilities. (Incidentally, as of February 26, 1991, Marshal Ogarkov was fired for reporting to the "Committee" that the United States has great superiority in technical weaponry and that "The Final Push" which he authored might not be feasible now that they have seen what we can do.) They are proceeding as scheduled with the plan they have been nurturing for the past seventy years - world conquest. Sometime during the next two years - prior to December 31, 1991 - they may raise their



submarines and launch the surprise nuclear and scalar attack. We will be caught totally off guard and will be rendered economically and militarily impotent. It is estimated that a total of 12,600 nuclear devices will be incoming on this nation. There are some who say that for a variety of reasons the attack could well occur on, or about, May 1991. I don't know if that is a valid date. I do know, for a certainty, that the attack will occur and Revelation, chapter 18 will be fulfilled in one hour.

The scriptural scenario continues with the rise of a man called "The Anti-Christ" to bring order to the world wide chaos. He will be a Jew, about thirty years old, brilliant, a charismatic speaker, and will solve the problems that nations cannot now seem to solve. He will bring peace to the world for 3 and 1/2 years then will launch an attack on Israel and the Mideast. He will come into the area only to find that China is invading from the east to confront

90-106 indicate this date because we know that the Psalms match up with the last generation years. And, the scriptures indicate that Israel shall be singing the "Songs of Moses" during the great tribulation period. Psalms 9- through 106 comprise the fourth book of the "Songs of Moses". The last books shall be sung during the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ on this earth.

I should also mention that during these next seven + years, the continents shall be relocated as they were at the time of ancient Babylon so that no person shall have to cross an ocean to come and worship the Lord Jesus Christ in Jerusalem. In addition, all the mountains of the earth shall be brought down and the valleys filled. Oh yes, let us not forget that the sun will nova and go out during the last week before Christ returns. His glory will light the earth and will destroy all the armies on earth. Also remember, that about 96 percent of the population on earth

tion, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507. Keep Hope Alive!

-Tom Freeman, for the Editorial Board.

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Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the WIP Editorial Board.

Keep those letters and cards coming. Correspondence and articles are always welcome. Send submissions to Works in Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

shall also be destroyed. Your protest won't mean much then.

There is a parachute which will keep you from the soon coming disasters and your death. It is to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord. It is to repent and turn your life over to Jesus and allow Him to love you and to forgive you through his shed blood at Calvary. That is why He came 1,991 years ago - to provide you with a "way" which is the only way to God and there are few who find it. Why not allow His love to flow into your heart and be one of the few who have "found the way". Jesus said that whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. He also said that if you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord, you shall be saved. Study the Bible and find out what this is all about. God is still in charge and all the events which have taken place over the past 100 days, and those which will soon be unfolding, are by His hand and direction. It is all in the scriptures. Search them and find out about tomorrow's headlines. It is very much later than you think. Seek God while He may be found because He will not strive with mankind much longer. The Judgement of the Nations is beginning and Iraq was first. Get on God's bandwagon while you still can. Hell is a terrible place to spend eternity, but without Christ that will be your dwelling place forever. Think about it - very seriously!

If you have an honest desire to know more of what God says, let's talk; but please, don't start calling me with all sorts of negative and vitriolic garbage. It won't change a thing and will only drive the nails in your coffin more deeply.

Martin Bonde
PS - Get copies of this to your network friends so they can also be informed of the coming events. Thanks!

Don't Bet That We're Not Bad

Alexander Cockburn

"At the start of the Korean war," I wrote recently, "US pilots used to throw up in their cockpits as they machine gunned civilians behind the lines. But before long they settled to the task and, with full public support, mowed down the 'gooks'

for a cease-fire.

President Bush is telling his fellow citizens to be "fiercely proud" of the servicemen and women in the Gulf. There's plenty of fierce pride around. But the moral climate would be a whole lot more wholesome if people were also fiercely aware of how much killing had to be done so that Bush can boast that the nation

in September the Pentagon leaked the story that, unlike the US, Iraq had fuel-air bombs that were near-nuclear in destructive capacity. In fact Iraq never used such bombs but the US did, and few raised a murmur. Nor was there much fuss about the carnage on the road north to Basra, after Iraq had agreed in Moscow to an unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

"The glee" wrote Colin Hughes in the British Independent (a newspaper that strongly supported the war) "with which American pilots returning to their carriers spoke of the 'duck shoot' presented by columns of Iraqis retreating from Kuwait City (has) troubled many humanitarians who otherwise supported the allied objectives." From the U.S.S. Ranger Randall Richard of the Providence Journal reported pilots as saying that the strikes against the retreating Iraqis were like "shooting fish in a barrel." The pilots were so keen to get back in the air that "their preferred weapon—the Rockeye cluster bomb—was being passed up because elevators were too slow getting them up to the flight deck in time for the next launch." Each Rockeye bomb disperses 247 bomblets containing needle-shrapnel designed for "soft" targets, otherwise known as people.

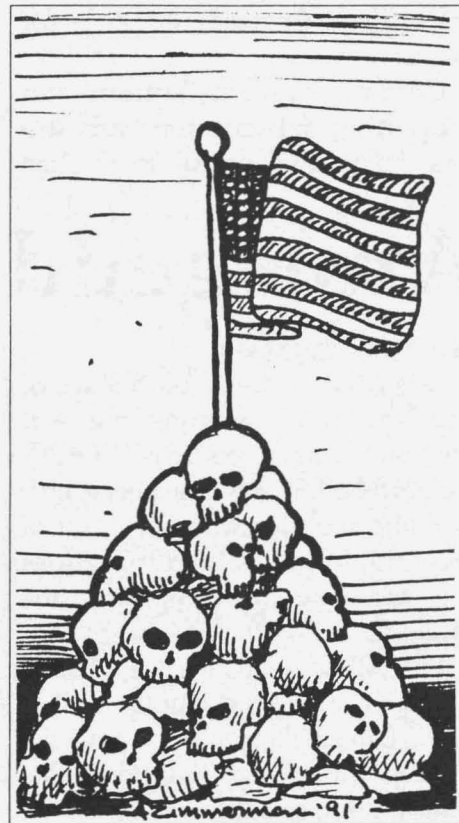
Later, down on that same road to Basra the BBC's Stephen Sackur described the incinerated and mangled dead who had been trying to get home. Among them were civilians including contract workers from the Indian subcontinent. Sackur saw the Bombay labels on their suitcases. Among these victims there were also, it seems, many Palestinians fleeing the indiscriminate fury of Kuwaitis.

Every report from inside Iraq of the civilian casualties from the bombing was plastered with warnings about "Iraqi censorship" and "news management". Meanwhile the most efficient censorship was being carried forward in the briefing rooms and "pool" management in Saudi Arabia, topped off by self-censorship back home.

"When three Kuwaiti soldiers began to beat up a Palestinian boy on a bicycle," Robert Fisk reported in the Independent from Kuwait on March 4, "Colin Smith of the Observer and I intervened physically, physically restraining the Kuwaiti troops and ordering them to lower their weapons. Several of the Kuwaiti vehicles were flying American flags. But the Special Forces accompanying the Kuwaitis did nothing to help.

When I asked the American officer why he allowed the Kuwaitis to beat up civilians, he replied: 'You having a nice day? We don't want your sort around here with your dirty rumours. You have a big mouth. This is martial law, boy. Fuck off.' These Special Forces have, Fisk noted, no names on their tunics, but have small Kuwaiti flags stitched to their uniforms.

From his eminence atop all these dead Iraqis with whom he



proclaimedly had "no quarrel," President Bush now says "Vietnam Syndrome" has been licked at last. But what was this syndrome if not the realization that even the world's mightiest power has its limits? The real message here is that the lessons of Vietnam have been at least unlearned, and that what pays most is the exercise of violence without limit.

Let me give Dr. Stolinsky a quotation from Captain Walter Karig's Battle Report (1952) in which an officer describes the use of airpower during the summer of 1950: "So we killed civilians, friendly civilians, and bombed their homes; fired whole villages with the occupants—women and children and ten times as many Communist soldiers—under showers of napalm, and the pilots came back to their ships stinking of vomit twisted up from their vitals by the shock of what they had to do." There was public support for this, just as there was public support for the bombing of the shelter in Baghdad.

So I'm asking Dr. Stolinsky to send his check for \$200 to the International Committee of the Red Cross, 780 Third Avenue, Suite 2802, New York, NY 10017, and mark the check "Assistance for Victims of the Gulf War."

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Dr. David Stolinsky offered to send \$200 to my favorite charity if I can offer him credible evidence that US planes intentionally strafed civilians behind the lines early in the war...

without remit.

This upset Dr. David Stolinsky of Blue Jay Way, Los Angeles. He offered to send \$200 to my favorite charity if I can offer him credible evidence that US planes intentionally strafed civilians behind the lines early in the war, and that such a policy had the American people behind it.

What does the good doctor think? That Americans don't kill people in wars unless they are clearly labelled "enemy soldier?" Or that Americans don't mow down defenseless targets, while the folks back home cheer them on.

His indignation at these unwelcome truths about the Korean war makes me think that maybe thirty years on from now there will be similar astonishment at news that Americans in the Gulf war dropped high explosives and missiles on Iraqi civilians, or that an American president deliberately prolonged this war so that American pilots could dump cluster bombs on a beaten and fleeing foe that had for five days been desperately calling

has finally put "Vietnam syndrome" behind it.

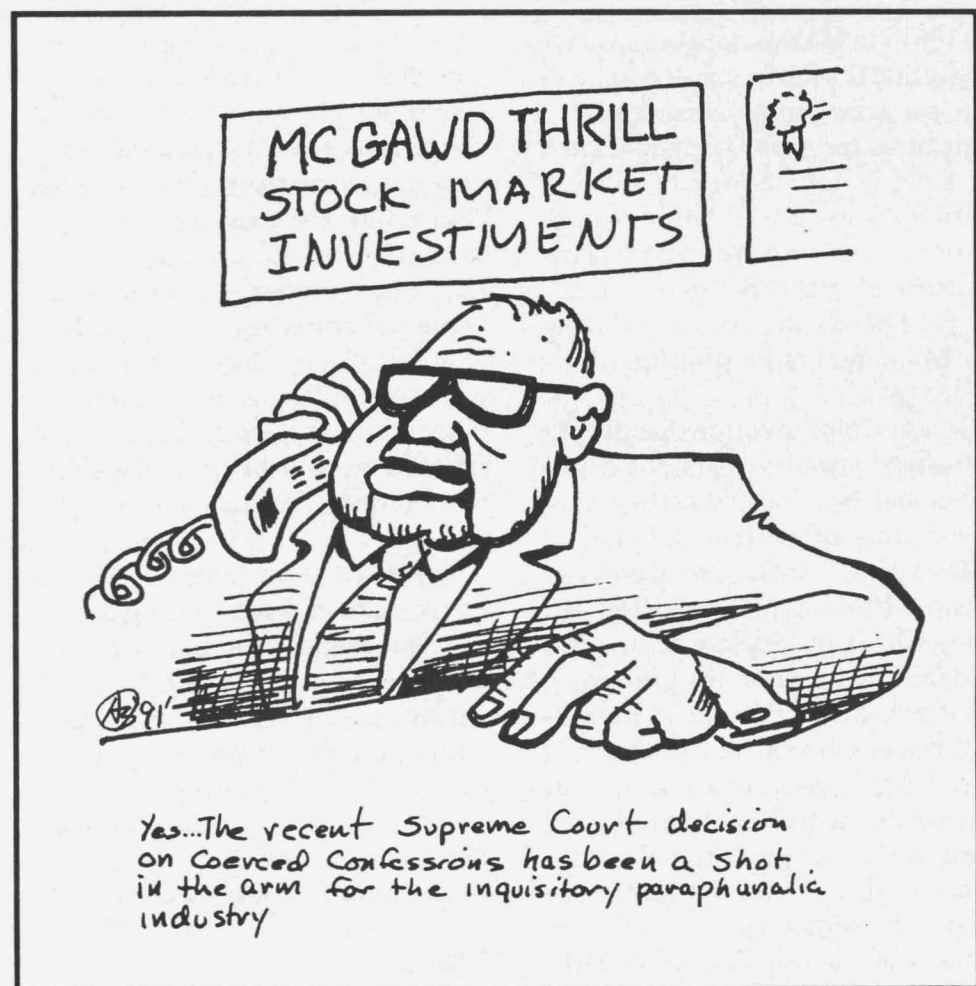
We'll never know precisely how many Iraqi civilians and soldiers perished. A prudent estimate from one journalist in Iraq is that some 7,000 to 10,000 civilians were killed in the bombings, but diseases stemming from smashed sewage and water systems will account for many more. And civilians were knowingly slaughtered. To target the Nassariyah bridge at two in the afternoon is to be sure that people will die. To drop bombs through clouds on urban targets while knowing that the margin of error is as high as two miles (a fact elicited by a US reporter in Dhahran) is to be similarly certain that innocent people will die.

For Iraqi soldiers the estimates have run from 50,000 to 100,000 dead. There will never be a precise accounting. As with the invasion of Panama, reporters were kept away while the bodies were bulldozed into shallow graves.

Some of the dead were victims of weapons about whose use scarcely a whisper was raised. Back

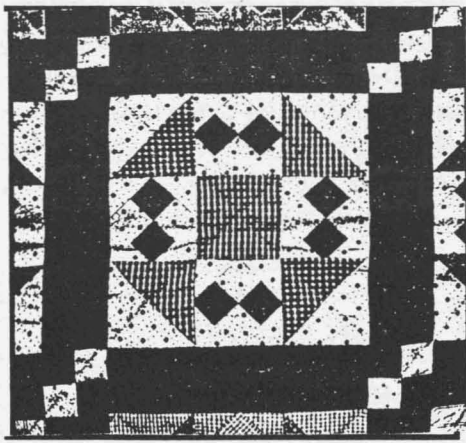
Jiggerypokery

by Al Zimmerman





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Patchworks

Thomas Mitchell Freeman

A lot is happening at the Washington State Legislature. In addition to the biennial budget process that is slowly developing into a blueprint of state spending for the next two years, there are some dramatic bills worthy of your attention.

Higher Education Setting The Agenda Once Again

On the budget front, some good news for higher education and The Evergreen State College. According to Jennifer Jaech, the Assistant to the President for Governmental Relations at Evergreen, "the Governor's revised budget was very hopeful for higher education. It gave back 1.7 million and that's definitely a step in the right direction." When Gardner's original budget came out in December, Evergreen was about 6% below the "carry-forward" level necessary to maintain existing programs and staff. "Now we're 2 or 3 percent below and we're continuing our discussion with legislators," said Jaech.

TESC Labor Center Still On Shaky Ground

One program still in question is the Rosalie Gittings Labor Education and Research Center at Evergreen. While the Governor supports the Labor Center, the Senate is likely to eliminate it from the budget, according to Jaech. However, it would require the House to do the same for the Labor Center to die. Jaech encourages readers to call or write their state Representatives (especially in the House) and ask them to maintain funding for the Labor Center.

Potential Good News For Washington Families And The Working Poor

The big news for the working poor and Washington families is the omnibus package known as the "Foundation for Families Act of 1991." [Substitute House Bill 1471], sponsored by House Speaker Joe King and Senator Patty Murray. Among its provisions is an increase in the state minimum wage to \$4.75 an hour on July 1, 1991 and to \$5.25 on January 1, 1992. Beginning April 1, 1993, the minimum wage would be adjusted annually based on changes in the national consumer price index. The Act would provide expanded unpaid family leave rights to care for serious ill children, spouses or parents. Employees who

Bills Of Interest And Budget Status From Your State Legislature

take family leave would be able to return to their old job or a similar position. Government support would be developed for community-based agencies to assist employers and working parents find and develop high quality child care services. Protective child labor laws would be strengthened and mandatory overtime by employers with 25 or more employees would be prohibited. SHB1471, the Foundation for Families Act of 1991 is a major piece of progressive legislation.

Not All News Good For Working Poor

The Washington Restaurant Association has decided that tipped restaurant workers should make a sub-minimum wage of \$2.13 an hour! While the bill has officially died for the session, concern is growing that the Tip Credit Bill could be revived as a bargaining chip to save the Foundation for Families Act. Let your elected officials know: no decreases in the state minimum wage



for anyone, anywhere. Food service employees are among our hardest workers. They deserve every dollar they earn and any tips that customers prefer to give them. Also, call the Washington Restaurant Association at 1-800-225-7166 or 956-7279 and tell Gene Vosberg the way it is: no give-backs, no cuts. Vosberg says "a new world order has begun and 'business' is going to kick some butt." What do you think?

Anti-bigotry, Anti-bias Act Has Hearing In Senate Law And Justice Committee

Recently I observed some ugly homophobia on the Evergreen bus as it made its way toward Columbia station. Two young men got on the bus at Division and Harrison and proceeded to harass students sitting at the back of the bus who were Gay and Lesbian. The Hate Crimes Statistics Act [ESHB 1037] would prohibit harassment based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, mental, physical or sensory handicap. The bill has passed the House and was introduced at the request of Governor Gardner. Besides outlawing and increasing criminal penalties for hate crimes, the bill would create a central data collection bureau to assist law enforcement agencies to obtain and maintain information. ESHB 1037 is being attacked as

a "special rights for homosexuals" bill by right-wing demagogues. It needs your support.

State Workers Fight For Benefits And Collective Bargaining

Substitute House Bill 1655 would give state employees the right to negotiate wages, benefits and other economic issues. It has passed the House and is now in the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee. SHB 1655 is supported by the Wash-

ington Federation of State Employees but is opposed by Governor Gardner according to state Budget Director Len McComb, who has been described as the most anti public-employee budget director in recent history. State workers deserve the same collective bargaining rights as any other working persons. Ask your state senator and the Governor to support SHB 1655.

Food service employees are among our hardest workers. They deserve every dollar they earn and any tips that customers prefer to give them.

With a new revenue windfall, state workers are asking for salary increases and demanding that no cuts be made on benefits programs. The Governor's original budget proposal calls for severe cuts to medical plans and increases in co-payments and deductibles. State workers already suffered benefits cuts in 1983. Make your voices heard at the Capitol: no benefit cuts for state workers.

Our priorities are sure messed-up when the number two highest paid state employee is Huskies' Coach Don James, followed closely by Budget Director Len McComb. McComb is balking at new classifications for office support staff in higher education as too costly, yet he lives high off the hog with wages close to \$100 G a year. Shame!

Civil Liberties Under Attack Through Proposal To Implement Forced Aids Testing

Gay rights activists and most advocacy groups for People with AIDS are organizing against the following measures: House Bill 1343 - which authorizes local health departments to order HIV testing of persons charged - not convicted - with sex offenses; Senate Bill 5086 allows victims to request forced AIDS testing of a defendant charged with a criminal sexual offense; Senate Bill 5236 gives victims the right to ask for forced testing of defendants if exchange of bodily fluids allegedly occurred; Senate Bill 5276 increases seriousness of crimes involving knowing transmission of HIV, adding 48 months to the standard sentencing of anyone convicted of

crimes involving exchange of bodily fluids; Substitute Senate Bill 5457 would make it a "gross misdemeanor" for a person who knows they are infected with HIV to continue contact with the public through employment which permits a "serious" risk of transmission.

These bills are, predominately, hysterical reaction against the AIDS crisis and People with AIDS/People with HIV (PWA's/PWH's). They do not address needs for better pa-

tient care, treatments, research, and non-discrimination. It suggests that PWA's and PWH's by and large attempt to infect a unsuspecting public and, with the exception of SB 5276, would require punitive forced testing of people accused of sex crimes before a conviction is obtained. What if the accused is found "not guilty?" What's happened to due process? The trauma of public exposure of health status in the face of potential loss of medical benefits, employment, emotional stability, etc., make these bills highly destructive to the civil liberties of all individuals. People at risk for AIDS need to feel safe in seeking information on their HIV status knowing that they will receive requisite counseling, support services and that their insurance and employment will be protected. People currently unemployed or uninsured are at high risk if forced testing becomes law. State your opposition to HB 1343, SB 5086, SB 5236, SB 5276 (there are already punitive measures on the books for convicted sex criminals), SB 5294 and SB 5457.

To Reach Your State Legislators

To reach your representatives or senator, call the legislative hotline at 1-800-562-6000. Operators are available to take your comments Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. You can also find the phone number to your senator in the Washington State section of your telephone book if you prefer to call their office directly. The legislature is at work and citizens must actively make their voices heard. Be an active citizen.

Tom Freeman is a graduate student in Public Administration at The Evergreen State College. He also co-hosts *Afternoon Delight*, a four-hour weekly public affairs radio program heard each Thursday from noon-4 p.m. on KAOS 89.3 FM. Tom and his co-host Randy Parr welcome on-the-air phone calls during live interviews and are open to ideas for future guests on their show.

A Black Librarian Sees Little Progress Toward Race-neutral Attitudes

"Yassuh! I's The Reference Librarian!"

Patrick A. Hall

At a seminar held by the Midwestern public library where I was employed until recently, I attended a workshop dealing with the reference interview and general patron/staff rapport. The speaker outlined the familiar litany of reference interview do's and don'ts, and her

black librarians face have little to do with recalcitrant patrons and everything to do with the regressive racial ethos of the 1980's. In short, the problems that haunted America and led to racial unrest in the 1960's persist in varying degrees 25 years later in the nation's housing market, schools, and workplace.

Naive as it seems, when I first entered the professional workforce

about the intellectual capacity of blacks. I try not to be overly cynical, but at times I wonder if it would be more effective to answer a patron request with, "Yassuh! I's the reference librarian!"

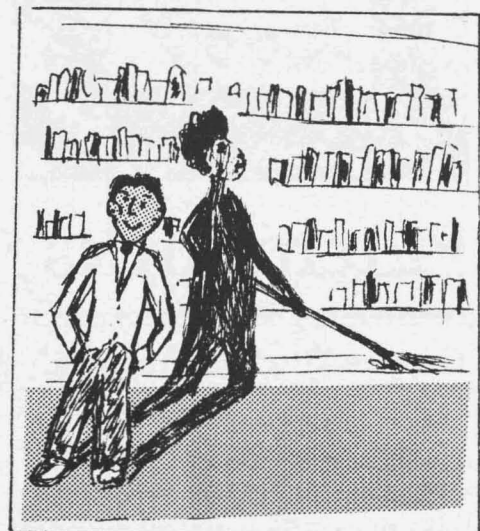
More than "comfort levels"

In the last presidential campaign, we often heard the phrase "increasing the voter's comfort level" applied to candidate Jesse Jackson. Unlike his white male counterparts, the overriding concern that attached itself to Jackson's campaign was whether he could increase his "comfort Level" among the general voting populace. In other words, could Americans in the 1980s really vote a black man into the most powerful office in the world?

Subconsciously, most blacks, and any whites honest enough to admit it, know that the racial climate of America will not allow a "race-neutral" consideration of Jackson as a presidential candidate. Similarly, most black librarians and other minority professionals are trapped in the awkward position of trying to make people "comfortable" with them as professionals while reserving enough energy to perform their jobs well. In my personal experience, attempting both these feats simultaneously can sometimes be more than overwhelming.

For example, the early 1980s found me working as a children's librarian in a small town in eastern Washington state. Although I had established good rapport with the children, I would inevitably find parents standing around during my story hours, visibly nervous about a black male being around white preschoolers. They were always

surprised, even shocked, when they discovered that I was indeed the children's librarian. I would usually try to make them comfortable with me by chatting with them and showing them that I was, after all, just another human being.



But after so many years of standing on my head for people just to increase their comfort levels, I became emotionally drained. After such experiences, blacks in my position can't help but feel somewhat angry and resentful of white society in general. From a practical standpoint, I and most other black librarians enjoy our work, but the library establishments for which we work must be cognizant of the special situations minority librarians face in performing our duties—situations that are not faced by our white colleagues.

"Too sensitive..."

I tried to discuss these special situations with my supervisors on several occasions, but I was met with either "You're just being too sensitive, Pat" or "We all have to deal with difficult patrons." But they just didn't understand. If I sound angry, it's because I am.

Originally, I intended to write this article to outline positive actions library management could

Repeatedly, patrons will seek a white librarian to confirm the answers I have given them, even on very simple questions that someone who was "brain dead" could answer.

comments served as a good refresher for those of us who work with the public day-to-day.

Reference librarians, the speaker emphasized, must be highly approachable, since we are usually the first staff members a patron encounters upon entering the library. Since librarians are generally viewed by the public as "bearers of knowledge and information," she continued, it is vital that our initial contact with the patron be a positive one.

I normally find most library staff seminars less than inspiring, but I came away from this program with strong but ambivalent feelings. On the one hand, I agreed with what the speaker had said; but as a black librarian, I have discovered my approachability and image as a "bearer of knowledge" are distorted by public perceptions. To be blunt, it has been my experience that the majority of patrons I serve see me first as a black man, and I can serve their information needs only after performing a great deal of placatory acrobatics to make them feel comfortable with me.

Racial climate unchanged

In my younger years, I believed that the racial climate of our country was improving; but time, coupled with a multitude of bad experiences, has taught me otherwise. As a black librarian, I am constantly placed in the precarious position of wanting to serve the public; however, time and again I am either directly or indirectly snubbed, patronized, or completely ignored by both patrons and my fellow staff members.

I am more than aware that serving the public can be hazardous, and that all of us must deal with occasional difficult patrons. Yet the difficulties that I and many other

14 years ago, first as a school teacher and later as a librarian, I truly believed that relations between blacks and whites were improving. I remember many knock-down arguments with my friends over how much the racial climate had indeed improved. What I failed to realize at the time was that although laws had been enacted to eliminate overt racial discrimination, they did very little to change historically conditioned attitudes. Simply stated, you cannot change the heart with a law.

Working as a public service librarian, I unfortunately get a daily dose of just how little attitudes have changed. These negative attitudes are now more subtle than overt, but they exist nonetheless. For example, a great part of my initial contact with the public is often spent just convincing them that I am indeed a reference librarian. Patrons then respond with the stuttered, patronizing refrain, "Well...well...maybe you might possibly know..."

Many times in the past five years I have been directly asked by patrons whether or not I have a degree before they even ask their questions. Another reminder of the peculiar nature of my position lies in the area of credibility: Repeatedly, patrons will seek a white librarian to confirm the answers I have given them, even on very simple questions that someone who was "brain dead" could answer.

This is not to say that in their normal course of dealing with librarians, patrons don't occasionally wish a second opinion. An occasional occurrence is fine, but the blatant frequency with which this happens serves as a reminder that my role as a black librarian is subject to society's not-so-subtle biases

County Employee Protects Her Health; Loses Job

Barb Belitteire

I've always heard the word bureaucracy but never really had a taste of its true meaning until recently.

hanging clouds and fog were trapping noxious odor billowing from the nearby smokestack of the Lakeside Industries Asphalt Company. Lakeside is situated on Hogum Bay Rd., southeast of the landfill. After inhaling the deadly

... is it not my right as a citizen to file an air pollution grievance if my health is being threatened?

For three months beginning November 27, 1990 I was employed by Thurston County Public Works, Solid Waste & Special Projects as an attendant at the Hawks Prairie Landfill recycle center. Though the job was by no means glamorous, I always arrived on time and performed my tasks in a conscientious manner. I assisted the public, answered questions about recycling and discussed the public's concerns about our mounting waste problems.

On February 22, 1991 while I was working at the landfill, the low

fumes for a half hour, my lungs and head ached. At this time I walked to the tollhouse, took my break and called Olympia Air Pollution Control Authority (OAPCA). I told the receptionist the problem, requested someone to do a compliance check and call me with the results. Nobody called back. I also called Lakeside to let them know I was getting sick from whatever they were spewing into the air. The operations manager for Lakeside said they were not operating any differ-

(Continued next page)

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take to alleviate or at least address the problem. But after delving through library literature, which seems to have a current fixation with computer technology, I discovered there is little discussion of pertinent social issues in today's workplace. There was a time in the not-too-distant past when librarians took a more aggressive stance on racial issues. Now, more than ever, it is imperative that we not only address the racial problems faced by minority librarians, but the librarians as a group begin taking a more visible posture on social issues.

As an admirer of Martin Luther King, Jr., I would like to hold out hope for a racial metanoia that would transform the present deteriorating racial climate into one where constructive dialogue and attitudinal reshaping might take place. But the public's mind-set, which I sample daily as librarian, tells me otherwise.

Patrick A. Hall was the ethnic support services librarian at Evergreen State College. He is now a librarian in Turlock, California.

This article was published in American Libraries, November 1988. Reprinted with permission of Patrick Hall.

(County Employee, cont.)

ently and that I was the first complaint he's received in ten years. Interestingly enough, the receptionist from OAPCA had said she's been working only a few months but has listened to odor complaints about Lakeside before.

On my next workday, Vic Berube, my supervisor, asked to speak with me privately. He said "You should have never called OAPCA to file a grievance on work, you got my boss into trouble. You can do whatever you want on your time but not on work time." Although I used to take my lunch breaks at the tollhouse, after learning that I filed a complaint, my supervisor told me that I must take my lunch breaks at the recycle center if I expected to be paid for them.

First of all, is it not my right as a citizen to file an air pollution grievance if my health is being threatened? Being a county employee should not negate my status as a citizen. Secondly, is there not a law permitting employees to take at least a half hour lunch break and two 10 minute breaks during the workday?

Amazingly, Dave Merrill, Vic's supervisor, asked to speak with me a few days later. (trouble again!) He stressed that he was very concerned for my health and that if the fumes really bothered me I should consider finding another job because work at the landfill must continue. (Of course this has nothing to do with my complaint about noxious fumes from Lakeside). In fact, he stressed at least five different times in our 20 minute conversation "I have to tell you again I'm concerned for your health". Did he really think by stressing his point five times that I would believe his bullshit? I had to finally ask "Are you asking me to leave?" Again, he said, "I'm concerned for your health."

1991 Not Much Different Than 1928

Marie Smith

While recently reading the history of the Coolidge and Hoover administrations, it seemed so like the present administrations of Reagan and Bush. There was

merous.

Then came Hoover and Bush, each preaching that helping the ones at the top would give more employment and benefits to the working class. The trickle down theory of Reagan and Bush was much the same as what Hoover believed.

Hoover thought that the Red Cross should take care of the unfortunate and Bush now has his 1,000 points of light. What's the difference?

Coolidge who was all for business, big business, little business, any business with no restraints. This was no different from Reagan who wanted and got all controls removed from industry after he first crushed the air traffic controllers' union. During each administration, wealth became concentrated among the few while the poor became more nu-

Some said that Hoover's theory was that you first fed oats to the horses, and in time there would be enough manure to keep the chickens busy. Hoover thought that the Red Cross should take care of the unfortunate and Bush now has his 1,000 points of light. What's the difference? With the Gulf War over, will our veterans have to march on Washington to

had even been told by Vic Berube that Dave Merrill had been leery of hiring me because of my environmental activism.

Barb is a member of SPEECH and is an ad rep for Works In Progress.

demand their benefits and be driven back by the army as they were in Hoover's day? Oh yes, and in those days we had prohibition in place of the current drug problem. Same as then we have drug dealers making money the same was as the moonshiners did in those days. Not much difference between the alcoholic and drug dependents.

Can we find another Roosevelt to make capitalism work? Someone who realizes that a well paid work force will have "Consumer confidence", that a person who has hope for his future is less apt to commit crimes or use drugs and that a life can be so hopeless that the threat of the death penalty is not that great? I thought not until I heard Bill Moyers speak at a Democratic leadership conference in Virginia on March 8th. Moyers stated that he was raised on mother's milk and Roosevelt speeches, and that he believes the health of the people precedes the health of the nation. He is a man who understands history and knows what the people want and need; and that wouldn't be a cut in the capital gains tax.

Marie Smith, a long time progressive, watches CSPAN, reads Page Smith, and is a WIP Board Member.



The Love Connection

Compiled by Matt Love

West Coast Ports Shut To Salvadoran Coffee

Thanks to boycotts supporters up and down the coast and to ILWU workers on the docks, West Coast ports remain closed to Salvadoran coffee. As of Feb. '90, no Salvadoran coffee has come through! Each day, the Salvadoran government and its coffee producers must absorb the added cost of shipping only to southern and eastern U.S. ports.

From "Grounds for Action". For more information: Neighbor to Neighbor 2601 Mission St., Room 400 San Francisco, CA 94110 1-800-Dont-Buy

Makes me Proud to be an American

The following is a list of television's all-time top rated regular series shows, excluding special programs or events.

1. Dallas (Nov. 21, 1980)
2. The Fugitive (Aug. 29, 1967)
3. Ed Sullivan (Feb. 9, 1964)
4. Beverly Hillbillies (Jan. 8, 1964)
5. Ed Sullivan (Feb. 16, 1964)
6. Bev. Hillbillies (Jan. 15, 1964)
7. Bev. Hillbillies (Feb. 26, 1964)
8. Bev. Hillbillies (Mar. 25, 1964)
9. Bev. Hillbillies (Feb. 5, 1964)
10. Bev. Hillbillies (Jan. 29, 1964)

The Other Jesse...

Act up's Boycott of Phillip Morris products (reported in the July, 1990 issue of Works In Progress) is still going strong, according to a recent report on "This Way Out", a gay and lesbian public affairs radio program heard locally on KAOS radio. Act Up has expanded its boycott to include the RJ Reynolds company, who's product line includes Camel and Winston tobacco products, as well as Nabisco food products.

RJ Reynolds contributed \$750,000 to Jesse Helms' re-election campaign. Helms has sometimes been referred to in the Gay Press as "Public Enemy Number Two" - second only to the AIDS epidemic.

Why Bush Came to Shove

Perhaps the most important aspect of the motivation for the U.S. intervention in the Middle East has been given scant consideration in the media, our own publication included. Many people understand that intervention in Iraq was motivated by U.S. desire to control petroleum resources in the region, and believe that conservation or reliance on alternative energy sources would remove the U.S. government's need to intervene in the region.

However, consider what Noam Chomsky had to say on the subject in a March, 1977 interview: "Suppose the U.S. had 100% of its own energy right here. That wouldn't affect in the least American desire to control the Middle East because we want to make sure that nobody else has access to those cheap resources of energy. One of the ways the U.S. keeps control over Europe and Japan is by having a stranglehold on their energy supply. Therefore, if there was a solar energy or shale breakthrough, giving the U.S. its own energy supply completely independent of Middle East oil, we still would want to ensure control over that region as long as Middle East oil remained cheap and accessible."

Back in 1945, the western hemisphere was by a large margin, the largest producer of oil, with most of it coming from the U.S. or the Caribbean. Nevertheless, the U.S. was absolutely insistent on kicking the French out of that tiny share they had of Saudi oil. In fact, the U.S. pressed to get Europe and Japan to shift to an oil-based economy after the Second World War, in part as a way of ensuring American control over them. Europe and Japan both have coal, but it is better for the U.S., if they are dependent on a foreign, American-controlled source of energy."

The U.S. should have a progressive energy policy; however, a shift in domestic energy policy would not result in a change in U.S. foreign policy. The U.S. is the dominant global power, and acts with all the force and brutality necessary to maintain that position. We may not like this reality, but it does a disservice to those working for peace and justice to ignore these facts, and how they give rise to our government's behavior, and the inevitable results.

Now top economists advise Mikhail Gorbachev:

Socialize The Rent

** Three of the West's top economists - Nobel prizewinners Franco Modigliani, James Tobin and Robert Solow - are among the signatories to an open letter to Mikhail Gorbachev. The economists urge the Soviet President to retain land in public ownership, and to raise government revenue by charging rent for the use of land.*

Dear Mr. Gorbachev,

The movement of the Soviet Union to a market economy will greatly enhance the prosperity of your citizens. Your economists have learned much from the experience of nations with economics based in varying degrees on free markets. Your plans for freely convertible currency, free trade, and enterprises undertaken and managed by individuals who receive the profit or bear the losses that result from their decisions are all highly commendable. But there is a danger that you will adopt features of our economies that keep us from being as prosperous as we might be. In particular, there is a danger that you may follow us in allowing most of the rent of land to be collected privately.

It is important that the rent of land be retained as a source of government revenues. While the governments of developed nations with market economies collect some of the rent of land in taxes, they do not collect nearly as much as they could, and they therefore make unnecessarily great use of taxes that impede their economies—taxes on such things as incomes, sales and the value of capital.

Social collection of the rent of land and natural resources serves three purposes. First, it guarantees that no one dispossesses fellow citizens by obtaining a disproportionate share of what nature provides for humanity. Second, it provides revenue with which governments can pay for socially valuable activities without discouraging capital formation or work effort, or interfering in other ways with the efficient allocation of resources. Third, the resulting revenue permits utility and other services that have marked economies of scale or density to be priced at levels conducive to their efficient use.

The rental value of land arises from three sources. The first is the inherent natural productivity of land, combined with the fact that land is limited. The second source of land value is the growth of communities; the third is the provision of public services. All citizens have equal claims on the component of land value that arises from nature. The component of land value that arises from community growth and provision of services is the most sensible source of revenue for financing public services that raise

These services include roads, urban transit networks, parks, and public utility networks for such services as electricity, telephones, water and sewers. A public revenue system should strive to collect as much of the rent of land as possible, allocating the part of rent derived from nature to all citizens equally, and the part derived from public services to the governmental units that provide those services. When governments collect the increase in land value that

financed and agencies will not have adequate incentive or guidance for economizing on their use of land.

Some economists might be tempted to suggest that the rent can be collected publicly simply by selling land outright at auction. There are a number of reasons why this is not a good idea. First, there is so much land to be turned over to private management that any effort to dispose of all of it in a short period would result in an extreme depression in prices offered. Second, some persons who could make excellent use of land would be unable to raise money for the purchase price. Collecting rent annually provides ac-

... to raise the greater part of government revenue from the rent of land is a policy most clearly associated with Henry George, the American economist whose Progress and Poverty (1879) continues to claim the attention of social reformers.

results from the provision of services, they are able to offer services at prices that represent the marginal social cost of these services, promoting efficient use of the services and enhancing the rental value of the land where the services are available. Government agencies that use land should be charged the same rentals as others for the land they use, or services will not be adequately

cess to land for persons with limited access to credit. Third, subsequent resale of land would enable speculators to make large profits unrelated to any productive services they offer, resulting in needless inequity and dissatisfaction. Fourth, concern about future political conditions would tend to depress offers. Collecting rent annually permits the citizens of future years to capture

the benefits of good future public policies. Fifth, because investors tend to be averse to risk, general uncertainty about the future will tend to depress offers. This risk aversion is sidestepped by allowing future rental payments to be determined by future conditions. Finally, the future rent of land can more justly be claimed by future generations than by today's citizens. Requiring annual payments from the users of land allows each year's population to claim that year's rent. While the proceeds of sales could be invested for the benefit of future generations, not collecting the money in advance guarantees the heritage of the future against political excesses.

A balance should be kept between allowing the managers of property to retain value derived from their own efforts to maintain and improve property, and securing for public use the naturally inherent and socially created value of land. Users of land should not be allowed to acquire rights of indefinite duration for single payments. For efficiency, for adequate revenue and for justice, every user of land should be required to make an annual payment to the local government, equal to the current rental value of the land that he or she prevents other from using.

This letter previously printed in Land & Liberty, a Georgist Association magazine.



Where Karl Marx Missed The Mark

by Marvin Saillard

Karl Marx could not see the economic difference between factories and the land upon which they were built. He believed that land and the tools of production were both capital. He thought they were both capital because neither land nor capital can produce wealth, or more capital, without the help of labor, both mental and physical.

Wealth represents consumer products, and is the object of all production. Capital represents man-made products used in the production of more wealth and more capital. Land, labor and capital are the three factors of production which are involved in producing wealth. The return earned by the three factors is rent-of-land, wages of labor and interest on capital, respectively. If the landlord owns all of the available valuable land, he can hire labor to produce wealth and capital. Since labor cannot live without access to land, labor will work for a subsistence wage when it has no other access to land and capital. If there were other land that labor could work upon, the landlord would have to pay a better wage than labor could make working for himself on land available without the payment of rent.

A subsistence wage does not allow labor the opportunity to make

land and capital that would permit labor to produce wealth on better terms. Karl Marx did not recognize that if labor were given access to land, it could make its own wealth and its own capital. He failed to see that private ownership of what it produces would give labor the incentive to produce more efficiently.

Karl Marx did not recognize that collecting the land-rent as private income was a special privilege which enables landlords to accumulate wealth (consumer products) and capital (man-made tools of production) without producing any products with their own labor. Marx did not recognize that ownership of

Marx did not recognize that ownership of land without paying rent-of-land to the community whose presence and activity give value to the land, allows the landowner to monopolize capital as well as land.

land without paying rent-of-land to the community whose presence and activity give value to the land, allows the landowner to monopolize capital as well as land. This gives the landowner power over any labor which has no choice but to work for the subsistence wages offered by the landowner.

Poverty, Henry George (1839-1897) pointed out that we could safely allow private ownership of land and of products as long as the community-created rental-value of land were collected as public revenue by the community government. This would enable the community government to untax all products and all producers, and would give all producers the incentive to use land more efficiently in the production

of wealth.

Government collection of the full rent-of-land on all valuable land would prevent land speculation and land-price inflation. Boom and bust cycles caused by land-price inflation would be prevented, and we could have a healthy economy all of the time. Communities could

Raffle Drawing Only Highlight Of Democratic Crab Feed (Ouch!)

Michael Spencer

I attended the Democratic Crab Feed last Saturday evening, March 16th, in Raymond. I hadn't been to one of these, generally billed as one of the state's best classic Democratic extravaganzas, for several years due to a variety of reasons. I had been out woodcutting earlier that day and met up with a logger who said he couldn't afford to go, but told me to "give 'em hell" for him, as that was what these crab feeds were all about, serving notice to the Republicans that folks down Pacific County way were keeping an eye on them and weren't going to let them get away with things. So off I went, looking forward to an evening of revelry mixed with some hellfire and brimstone delivered to "them other guys".

The evening started off well enough. My hat's off to the Food Committee, as the meal and service were both excellent and went off very smoothly compared to some of my past experiences. Then came the moment we were all waiting for, when Booth, Jolene and other invited speakers were going to rouse

(Marx Continued)

afford to serve and protect their people, and they could maintain the infrastructure required to keep our communities viable and valuable.

Karl Marx missed the mark when he took away all incentive to produce by requiring government ownership and control of all land, all tools of production, and all distribution of products. Our system of capitalism also misses the mark when it allow landowners to collect nearly all of the community-created rental-value of land as private income while allowing the taxation of the private incomes of labor and capital in order to pay for the community services that should have been paid for out of the community-created rental-value of land.

Confiscation of private property and private income by taxation destroys the incentive to produce. Confiscation of the community-created rental-value of land by landlords gives them a land monopoly that enables them to also monopolize capital and to suppress wages of labor and interest on capital.

Our government tries to make us think they are doing something about our economic problems while they are making them worse by taxing away our incentive to produce, and are using deficit spending to steal from us and our children and our parents. It is about time we found the mark, and corrected our mistake. What if the Russians find the mistake and correct it before we do?

The land is ours.

Marvin Saillard is a member of the Washington State Georgist Assoc.

us to fervored heights of "We're mad as hell and we're not going to take it any more", sending off a strong message to friend and foe alike that the Democrats, especially down in the stronghold of Pacific County, weren't going to just sit back on their duffs and let those other guys run roughshod over our country.

Speaker after speaker rose and retired, delivering nothing but bland uninspired homilies. Then suddenly, the announcement was made, and the crowd bubbled with eager anticipation, expressing an excited interest that had been lacking all evening long. Finally, the highlight of the evening was upon us: it was time for the drawing of the winning raffle tickets! I mean, was I at a classic chest-thumping, rebel-rousing, barn-burning, let's go get 'em,

in their country as the coalition had shown them to exist in the Western world.

For years I thought we never learned anything from the Viet Nam War, except of course how much deeper we humans could sink and luxuriate in the stenching wallows of man's inhumanity to man, no matter what our race or skin color. We sent our troops off to fight a war nobody wanted and, as a nation, we turned our backs on them not only when they were there, in the latter stages of the war, but also when they came back home. A statistic that absolutely horrifies me is that the number of suicides committed by Viet Nam veterans now exceeds the total number of deaths which occurred over in that distant land.

I am glad we now recognize that

We need people who are committed to fight wars . . . at home: on poverty, poor educational opportunities, homelessness, drugs, inadequate health coverage, inadequate childcare . . .

rally for the major opposition party in this country, or did I get my dates and/or venue mixed up, and really was at a church social instead? (No offense intended for any of you religious folk.)

This really impressed upon me what a nation of gutless sheep we have become, ready to be lead off to a bloody slaughter next November, and again in November 1996 ad infinitum. The Republicans don't "win" elections, and never have, the Democrats conveniently hand them over on a silver platter through ineptitude and indifference.

George Bush is currently basking in glory for making the U.S. number one again. Forgive me for not wearing my "USA kicks butt" tee-shirt, but I cannot feel proud that the only thing in which our country can manage to be number one in the world anymore, at least under Bush and formerly Reagan, is being able to kill off more people faster, smarter, and with more precision, than any other country has ever been able to do in the past. Under the leadership(?) of these two administrations we can now reap the greatest amount of misery and meanness ever, not only here at home on our own citizens but anywhere in the world, with ease.

Anyone who still believes that this recent war was necessary in order to restore "democracy" to the "free" people of Kuwait needs their head examined. Within a week of the "liberation" of that country, more than 10,000 Kuwaitis applied to leave, as it was apparent to them that they never had, and never will have, rights, equality and freedom

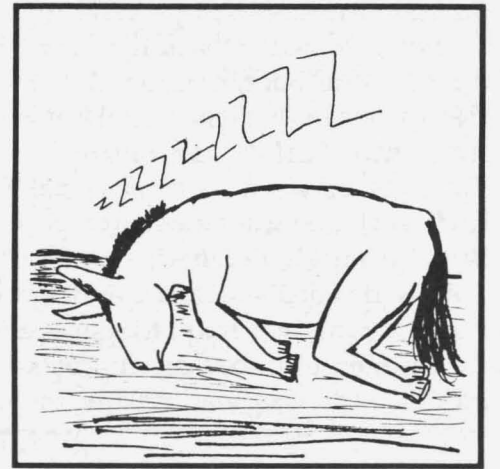
if our so-called leaders mandate that there is no other choice but to dispatch our armed forces, men and women alike, to far-off wherever, in defense of our national security, for whatever reason (and remember that it was *us* who put these people in office), that we as a nation give them our total and unbridled support. I am proud of and applaud our troops for their tremendous personal sacrifice and unselfish efforts. If nothing else good comes out of this, I hope it is a renewal of the feeling that we as individuals can each in our own way do something that really matters.

This militaristic adventure, termed a "war" for obvious reasons of generating patriotism, could easily have been avoided, for more or less the same end result eventually, except maybe 100,000 less dead Iraqis, and thankfully, a lot fewer Americans, plus untold billions dollars worth of property damage, if our current administration had been doing the job they were elected, even if by default, to do. I truly feel they took the easy way out, carefully orchestrating the whole campaign to make any token opposition here at home appear to be unpatriotic.

It is becoming obvious that our intelligence network (recall that George Bush was a former director) is in a complete shambles, vastly overestimating the capability of the Iraqis. Our diplomatic efforts were totally unbecoming an administration whose leader campaigned on the premise of ours being a "kinder, gentler nation" (I guess that's where the expression "to kill someone with

kindness" comes from?) and Bush's "thousand points of light" are merely the foretelling of thousands of laser-guided bombs.

What really disappointed me at the crab feed was that it seemed as those to whom we look for leadership and inspiration apparently have thrown in the towel and have already resigned themselves to a fur-



ther four years of King George and are happy to while away the days playing their Bingo games. If that is the case, let them step aside for those people, if indeed there are any still around, with the convictions and qualities that made the Democratic Party what it historically has stood for, and are willing to fight to maintain for all Americans those basic principles: equality, fairness, and caring. We need people who are committed to fight wars, not on some far-off corner of the world to restore some dubious cause, but at home: on poverty, poor educational opportunities, homelessness, drugs, inadequate health coverage, inadequate childcare, you name it, the list goes on and on, getting longer with each new Republican administration.

As next November grows ever near, we want people who can ask of Bush: what was your agenda, and what did you do to meet it? What we are likely to hear is: we "freed" the Panamanians from Noriega (and if you really believe that, make another appointment with your psychiatrist), who by the way has been in jail the past year enjoying a life of luxury at taxpayer's expense that millions of homeless Americans would gladly exchange their lot for, and we liberated Kuwait so the sheik and his merry band of playboys could take over again. On the home front, we managed to keep the trade deficit at all-time highs, increased the deficit to record levels, didn't raise taxes but let the taxes raise themselves, let the S&L's rip off the taxpayers for another few hundred or so billion, now we are working on the banking system, next comes Social Security and Pension Funds. Hey, its only money.

Under this, and the past, administration we have managed to reduce our national functional identity to being nothing more than an on-call mercenary army to protect German and Japanese business and economic interests, and cheap at that. If this is the kind of America you want, the good news is you've got it. If it is not, please remember that you can still make a difference. Just do it.

Michael Spencer works for the Dept. of Ecology.

Turkey, an American Strategic Asset

Greg Bye

Turkey has received a great deal of attention since early August, when the Bush administration began manufacturing an international consensus for its Gulf war policy. Turkish president Turgut Ozal responded immediately to the overtures. For instance, he ordered that the pipelines, which carried oil from Iraq into Turkey, be shut-off. Turkey's network of commercial trade with Iraq was halted, as well. But, although much discussed, Turkey did not divert the Tigris river from flowing into Iraq. Militarily, the number of troops on Turkey's border with Iraq was greatly in-

These included bombings of buildings in Turkey belonging to US banks and corporations. There were abductions - - and some assassinations - - of those suspected of being agents of American imperialism. Many of these actions were claimed by DEV-SOL (Revolutionary Left); an organization with roots from the late 60's.

Although forms of resistance varied, most could agree that, given Turkey's and Iraq's geographical, cultural, political and economic links, Turkey should have pursued another course than that of being a US lap dog.

According to official records, the US and Turkish relationship came

... given Turkey's and Iraq's geographical, cultural, political and economic links, Turkey should have pursued another course than that of being a US lap dog.

creased. Also, the US was allowed to fly combat missions into Iraq from Incirlik airbase in southern Turkey.

There were limits placed on Ozal's demands, however. For one, Ozal's desire to send a ground force to Saudi Arabia was blocked by parliament. Furthermore, Ozal's overall handling of the situation led one high-ranking general and two cabinet ministers to resign. But even so, the parliament consented to allowing US ground forces to attack Iraq from Turkish soil, if Bush had requested it.

Turkish public opinion polls indicated widespread opposition to their government's handling of the situation; as did huge anti-war and anti-US demonstrations in several major Turkish cities. A labor dispute was transformed into an anti-Ozal front. However, some Turks took destructive forms of direct action.

about because the Truman administration was committed to protecting weak democracies from threats by the Soviet Union. Actually, Washington wanted Turkey as an ally chiefly because it gave a foothold to the US in the "resource rich" Persian Gulf region. In the early post-war era, the main regional adversary was Britain. The US's principle concern was to break-up Britain's gulf-empire, and become the dominant power there. Such things as containing the Soviet Union, or destroying it from within were of secondary importance. However, the US has pursued the policy of using the alliance with Turkey to control the naval passage from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea if an offensive war with the Soviet Union occurs. In addition, Turkey was to become a launching pad for air and missile attacks on

the Soviet Union.

The leadership of Turkey's only political party, the Republican Peoples Party, (RPP), quickly discovered that democratic political processes were not necessary for a nation to be eligible for US foreign aid. Rather, all that was needed was that government's guarantee of domestic tranquility, and support the American-dominated "New World Organization".

However, this did not prevent democratic changes from happening in Turkey. Late in 1945, several key members of the RPP resigned, then formed the Democratic Party, (DP). The new party called for Turkey to move toward a free-market economy; away from the statist principles of the RPP. After a short period of organizing and campaigning, the DP entered the 1946 national elections. The official results gave the RPP an easy victory, and a large majority in the Grand National Assembly. However, many observers were convinced that the elections were fraudulent. Afterwards, the DP continued building their organization, and campaigned throughout the country.

The Democrats could not be denied in 1950, winning 4.2 million votes to 3.2 for the RPP. In the parliament, the DP controlled 80% of the seats, to the RPP's 14%. The simple majority rule greatly benefited the DP, as it did the RPP in previous elections.

Ironically, it was the RPP who refused requests by the DP to change to a representational system.

The overwhelmingly Democrat assembly chose Celal Bayar as president. Bayar selected Adnan Menderes, a wealthy planter, to be the Prime Minister.

The Menderes government quickly moved to create a free-market economy. The cornerstone was to be a heavily mechanized agricultural sector, which would produce high yields on all available lands. To help facilitate this, the government provided easy credit, a guaranteed market for surplus, and very low taxes on agricultural income. It promoted expansion in the commercial and industrial sectors, giving low interest loans to new businesses, and encouraging investments by private interests, including international investors. To help pay for these liberal policies, Menderes borrowed heavily from institutions like the IMF, the European Economic Union, and the US.

From 1951 to 1954 there were record harvests, and Turkey's economy boomed. But, starting in 1955, a series of droughts ensued, and the economy stagnated. Menderes did not substantially change his economic policies, although some restrictions were placed on imports, and the Lira was devalued by over 300% in 1958. Menderes believed that in time the economy would grow again.

In the international political realm, Menderes's main focus was

strengthening Turkey's ties to the US. Turkey allowed the US to build new, and improve existing, naval and air bases.

Command and Communication facilities were established, as were US Army controlled battle field nuclear weapons sites. Also, the Turkish military command structure was redesigned to resemble that of the US. In return, Turkey became one of the top recipients of US military aid. To cut expenses, the



US lobbied to have Turkey become a NATO member.

Many members were reluctant in accepting a non-industrialized Muslim nation into the alliance. It was feared that European unity would weaken and military aid lessened, if Turkey joined. Other concerns, although not considered as important, included Turkey's neutrality in the second world war, until February, 1945. Also, Turkey had been Nazi Germany's main trading partner up to 1943.

But, despite concerns, Turkey was admitted into NATO in 1952. Perhaps Menderes's decision to send a combat brigade to fight in the Korean War tipped the scales in Turkey's favor.

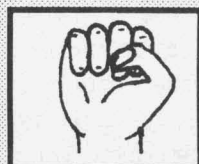
The republic of Turkey's human rights record was not very admirable, either; although of little, if any, concern to NATO at that time. We will now briefly review the record, roughly between the years of 1918 to 1950.

The early government, under Mustapha Kemal, forced over one million ethnic Greeks to leave their traditional homelands in Anatolia, and relocate in Greece. This was a continuation of a policy begun by the Ottoman reformers popularly known as the "Young Turks." Their ideology of "Turkism" held that Christians would not be loyal citizens.

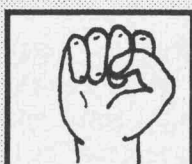
The few remaining Armenians of eastern Turkey were also deported. These were survivors of the pogroms conducted during the waning years of the Ottoman Empire -- mostly between 1909 - 1915 -- and the attacks by forces loyal to the Turkish nationalist cause during the War of Independence (1919-1922).

The only Greeks and Armenians allowed to remain were those who had lived in Istanbul province prior to 1918. Thus, two ancient cultures were destroyed.

The early government was not tolerant of the Kurdish nationalist movement, either. In order to squelch it, the Turkish military conducted 17 campaigns between 1925 and 1938. These



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included aerial bombardment. Also, forced urbanization was used to pacify the Kurds and wipe out their traditional culture, as most were forced off their farmlands and pastures, and relocated in eastern cities, especially Diyarbakir.

Political and ideological dissent by those who considered themselves Turks, was repressed by the government, too. Included was the populist "Green Army" of peasant irregulars led by Cerkes Etham. Even though the Green



Army was key in the defeat of the Great Powers - backed Greek invaders in the War of Independence, it was crushed by Kemal's Nationalist Army.

The Turkish Communist Party was also a target for governmental repression. Several of its leaders were drowned in the Black Sea, having outlived their usefulness as intermediaries between Kemal and the Bolsheviks. The government was outlawed in the early 1920's, and its members subject to constant surveillance and harassment by the government. Nazim Hikmet, Turkey's greatest modern poet, and a communist, was imprisoned several times. Once, he was arrested on charges of inciting the army to revolt. He was convicted on the evidence that military cadets were reading his poems. After being released in 1950, Hikmet fled to the Soviet Union. This was mainly due to threats of military induction. Hikmet was 48 at the time.

Being a "strategic asset" of the United States requires that governments do their best to honor the requests of Big Brother. And Menderes made diligent efforts to have his nation comply. But this was not always easily done. For instance, in the midst of political turmoil in Syria in 1957, Menders ordered the massing of troops on the Syrian border. Iraq, another strategic asset, did likewise. There was talk of an invasion, and partition of Syria by Turkey and Iraq. In response to this threat to its ally, the Soviet Union greatly increased its military forces on the eastern border with Turkey. Turkish military leaders were incensed at menderes for this development. Fortunately, the crises soon ended.

But these were not stable times for governments in the region. The monarchy in Iraq fell to revolutionaries in 1958, with help from the Iraqi military. Menderes wanted Turkey to invade and help restore "order." But the political opposition and the military leaders rejected his proposal. Menderes backed down.

The government of Lebanon was also threatened by internal opposition during this period. But now, instead of requesting assistance from Turkey, the US "told" Menderes that the Incirlik airbase would be a staging ground for a US invasion force. The fact that there was no discussion between the two governments was alarming to many Turks, including people outside of the government. It was indicative of the amount of control that Washington had over Ankara.

The Menderes regime was troubled; although not for the above reason. Rather, it largely stemmed from fear that the Turkish military might follow the Iraqi military's example when it helped overthrow a reactionary government. The fear was not baseless, either. For there were those frequent demonstrations in Ankara, and other major cities. Many were organized by military officers and students. There were also rumors that the RPP leadership was working with the military to oust the Democrats.

In response, the DP signed an agreement with the US which stipulated that American troops would

intervene if there was a coup. Furthermore, despite having easily defeated the RPP in three national elections, presently controlling 70% of the parliament, and with the DP's popularity rising because of an economic recovery, Menderes approved of repressive tactics directed against the leaders of the RPP. (Major newspapers considered hostile to the DP had been under attack for several years.) A prime target was Ismet Ionu, Kemal's top general, and a former president of the Republic. While on an RPP campaign tour in April and May of 1959, Inonu was constantly harassed by violent mobs. Once, if army troops had not intervened, he would probably have been killed.

On May 27th 1960, the Turkish armed forces broadcasted a statement to the nation:

"Honorable Fellow Countrymen, owing to the crisis into which our democracy has fallen, and owing to the recent sad incidents and in order to prevent fratricide, the Turkish armed forces have taken over the administration of the country."

The coup, which lasted four hours, was planned and led by 38

officers, with ranks from captain to general. The Junta began plotting late in 1959, after receiving assurances of non-interference from Washington. Calling themselves the Committee for National Unity, they had Menderes, his cabinet, and all DP members of parliament, but one, imprisoned. menderes and three others were later executed.

The CNU promised a rapid return to civilian rule, but only after some changes were instituted. These included a bi-cameral parliament, with proportion representation in the lower chamber. To prevent abuses by a ruling administration, an apolitical constitutional court was to be established. To institute these, and other changes, members from the faculty of law of Istanbul University were appointed to rewrite the constitution.

End of Part One.

For a footnoted version of this article, send \$1 for copying and postage to Greg Bye, c/o EPIC TESC Olympia, WA, 98505

Greg Bye is a TESC graduate and active in peace and justice issues.

Symptoms Of U.S. Nationalism

Joel Montague

"There is only one super power in the world—and it is us!" So spoke Rep. Leach. Others proclaim a renewed national vitality, a rising spirit, and see a divine mission. Burton Yale Pines of the Heritage Foundation came up with an analogy: "We are like a 900 pound gorilla who is very happy to march through the jungle beating his chest." And, back in the world of *homo sapiens*, the well-known Republican fund raiser declares, as he contemplates an easy time of it in 1992: "Well, somebody has to be the world's policeman".

A radio station in Raleigh, North Carolina, now identifies itself, "WRAL-FM, broadcasting from the most powerful nation in the world!"

Fulbright defined arrogance as "the tendency of great nations to equate power with virtue and major responsibilities with a universal mission."

And TV carries pictures of triumphant marches in a sea of waving flags while the flag makers enjoy a bonanza the likes of which they have not seen since Bush's visits during his presidential campaign.

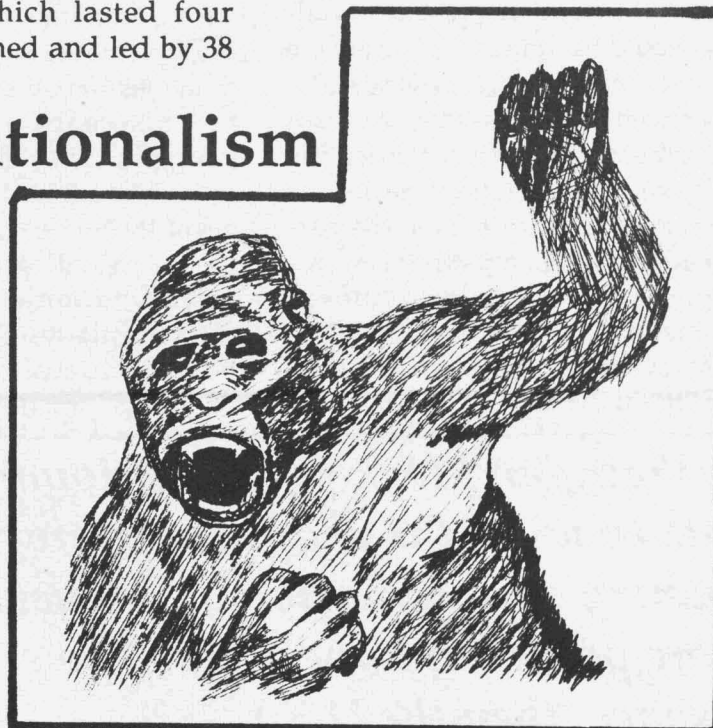
Political analysts, macro-psychologists and other sooth-sayers are celebrating the demise of the "Viet Nam syndrome" and divin-

ing a great national exhilaration, a surge of self-pride, the awakening of a sleeping giant—or a 900 pound gorilla! Others are not so euphoric. June Jordan, UC Berkeley, says, "...It's

a hit the same way that crack is, and it doesn't last long." Professor Paul Kennedy of Yale sees the potential for national decline in what he terms our "imperial overstretch". The noted military historian, John Shy, says Desert Storm taken together with Grenada, Libya and Panama, establishes a triumphant series of episodes in which military power has been used as and instrument of foreign power and laments: "I hope it does not induce an arrogance or bully-boy behavior in American foreign policy." (Maybe it already has.)

Speaking of arrogance: In 1966, Senator William Fulbright published a book under the title, "*The Arrogance of Power*" in which he defined arrogance as "the tendency of great nations to equate power with virtue and major responsibilities with a universal mission."

He said the great nations are particularly susceptible to the notion that power is a sign of God's favor and that this confers upon them a special responsibility for other nations make them "happier and wiser"—to make them over in our own image. Fulbright's thesis concerning the arrogance of power was illustrated by broad historical refer-

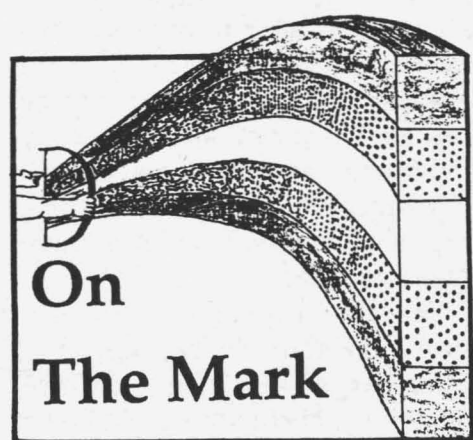


ences, including episodes in America's past which evidenced the malady.

We have suffered recurring attacks of the arrogance of power, always with a clear and magnanimous conscience, and always accompanied by jingoistic slogans and statements of laudable ends: To rid the world of evil men and aberrant ideologies.

Senator Fulbright thought that Americans enjoy feeling they are responsible for the whole world. He was afraid, however, that it was turning our heads, just as the sense of universal responsibility had turned the heads of ancient Romans and nineteenth century British... Gradually but unmistakably, he declared, "America is showing signs of arrogance of power which has afflicted weakened and sometimes destroyed great nations of the past. In so doing, we are not living up to our capacity and promise example for the world. The measure of our falling short is the patriot's duty of dissent."

Joel Montague, a professor of sociology, has a new book published by Frontier Press. *Works In Progress* will be reviewing "Cohort of One" in the May issue.



Dave Jette

I've had an awfully hard time getting this month's column together. It's not that I feel unable to make a strong case for the political relevance of Marxism. To the contrary, I don't believe it is possible to work effectively toward the liberated society of the future, without being informed by Marxist political theory in a fundamental way. The problem is, which of the many contradictory versions of Marxism presently available should be upheld? What are the basic tenets of the "real Marxism"?

For well over a century, Marxism as the theoretical basis for "scientific socialism" has inspired social reformers looking to escape the barbarism of capitalism. Marxism as a guiding ideology has been "proven in practice" by successful anti-capitalist revolutions of gigantic proportions in Russia and China, and revo-

POLITICAL RELEVANCE OF MARXISM

a socialist society, and they have generally supported imperialist wars waged on behalf of the capitalists of their own country. They have held state power in quite a few advanced capitalist countries, even in North America, where the avowedly socialist New Democratic Party governs Canada's most populous province, Ontario. Social democrats have always vehemently opposed the dictatorial practices in the Soviet Union. (See last December's column for a critique of social democracy by the book *Liberating Theory*.)

Also in strong opposition to "classical Marxism" have been the Trotskyists. Trotsky was purged from political power in the Soviet Union in the late 1920's, and murdered a decade later, by Stalin. Both he and his followers have had a strong economist bent, tending for example not to support multiclass struggles for national liberation and to disregard non-economic struggles. They have been vilified as "police agents" by the supporters of the Soviet Union because of their unrelenting exposure of and hostility toward Stalinism. (More fundamentally, Trotskyists have been so viciously attacked by the Stalinists precisely because, re-

anti-revisionist organizations have died out by now, though if you look carefully you can still find domestic "Marxist" organizations supporting practically any professedly anti-capitalist movement or state (including Stalinist Albania, Mao's China, Deng's China, or even the murderous Shining Path movement in Peru). The basic political problem with all of these grouplets has been an incomplete break with "classical Marxism", the absolute necessity for which we examined in last month's column.

In putting forward a case in support of the political relevance of Marxism, I do not wish to be encumbered with the many errors of the Marxist currents mentioned above, such as class collaborationism, economic determinism, sectarianism, and one-party dictatorship. Rather, I shall suggest a particular view of Marxism which I would hope avoids these problems, and which may well be considered to be appropriate and useful by many social activists of both Marxist and non-Marxist political background. But in doing so I have to emphasize that this view is only one of many existing interpretations of Marxism, and it is not being presented as being the "real Marxism". The relevance of this or any other view of Marxism will have to be decided in practice, by whether it is grasped by masses of people trying to create a decent society.

THE GOALS OF MARXISM

Like many other social reformers, Marx and Engels had a vision of a future liberated society in which every person would develop and enjoy life to the maximum of her or his own capacity. What has distinguished Marxism in this regard has been its recognition of the central role of economic classes in determining the functioning and development of society. Marxism has pointed out clearly that even in seemingly democratic societies such as our own, it is actually the capitalists who are calling the political shots - even if they wanted to, elected politicians have no power to change the fundamental social relationships which ensure that the capitalists continue to appropriate much of the wealth created by the working class. Thus (human) history must be considered to be a history of class struggle, of the incessant conflict among groups of people defined by their relationship to the process of production of needed material goods. It is this worldview of "historical materialism", which we reviewed along with its limitations in the February issue of *Works in Progress*, which has provided the basis for Marxist political practice (good or bad).

The future communist society envisioned by Marx and Engels was one of a "free association of the producers themselves". Capitalist re-

lations of production, by their very nature exploitative and requiring the intellectual and material repression of the great majority of the people, would be supplanted by cooperative, democratic organization of society by and in the interests of the actual producers. This would be a society of undreamed material abundance, governed by the principle of "from each according to his ability, to each according to his need" (modified, of course, by the realization that women as well as men exist in this future society). The state, properly understood to be the guardian of the interests of the dominant economic class, would wither away as class distinctions disappeared. (At least the repressive functions of the state would be eliminated, such as standing armies,



Raised right . . . We mean Dave Jette, a credit to the Boy Scouts of America, proudly donning his new sparkling Eagle badge.

the police, the judicial system, etc.; presumably overall administrative functions of the state, for overall coordination of democratically agreed-upon activities, would still be required.)

The fundamental political problem for Marxism is, how do we get to this truly liberated communist society of the future? Marx and Engels thought that the transition period would be relatively short, and called it "socialism", regarded as the "lower stage of communism". We now realize that the socialist period is going to require a much longer time for the transformation of social relationships and ideological outlooks, but in any case socialism is to be guided by the principle of "from each according to his ability, to each according to his work". (This implicitly removes from consideration the capitalists, who own rather than work for a living.) Progress in "building socialism" must be judged by the extent to which working people progressively grasp direct control over all aspects of their lives, both individually and collectively. (This view is in opposition to that of "classical Marxism", that the yardstick for socialist progress is increase in the level of production of material goods.)

MARXIST POLITICS IN PRACTICE

We can now sum up this sketch of the political relevance of Marxism. First, we distinguish our view

In Vietnam, Marxist revolutionaries were able to unite the people in freeing their country of domination by immensely more powerful imperialist powers (France, then the U.S.).

lutionaries in many other countries have attempted to follow in their footsteps. In Vietnam, Marxist revolutionaries were able to unite the people in freeing their country of domination by immensely more powerful imperialist powers (France, then the U.S.). Elsewhere, small countries like Cuba have had to adopt Marxist politics in order to achieve and retain their (relative) independence from the international capitalist system. Especially during the period of the hegemony of the Soviet Union over the international communist movement, there has emerged the illusion of a single Marxist path ("classical Marxism", as we term it) to the ideal communist society envisioned and championed by Marx and Engels.

COMPETING VERSIONS OF MARXISM

But in fact, there are many contradictory versions of Marxism around, competing for the allegiance of the oppressed. So many, that you can't tell the players without a scorecard! There are the social democrats, whose main organization in the U.S. is the Democratic Socialists of America. Historically, social democrats have held an evolutionary approach to the transformation of capitalism into

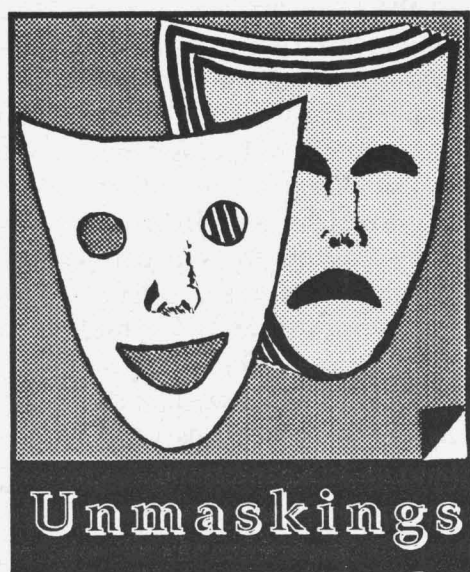
ardless of their political errors, they have sought to advance the interests of the working class; in contrast, the Stalinists - objectively or even subjectively - have served the interests of the coordinator class.) Trotskyists have never held state power, and this lack of "hands-on" experience has probably contributed to the formation of quite a number of competing Trotskyist sects.

Generally, the adherents of "classical Marxism" have formed more stable organizations, following the lead of communist parties holding state power. When the Soviet Union held hegemony over the international communist movement, it could award the franchise to a single (subservient) communist party in each country, but with the Sino-Soviet split in the early 1960's a host of "anti-revisionist" organizations arose. In the U.S., these new organizations have lacked mass bases and have strongly tended to degenerate into little sects, fighting ideological battles among themselves to the utter boredom of the vast majority of social activists (not to mention of the working class, which they intended to mobilize). Many of these

of Marxism from that of other major currents, such as social democracy, Trotskyism, and "classical Marxism" (the latter in both its Stalinist and "anti-revisionist" versions), which we consider to be fundamentally flawed. We go back to the original goal of Marx and Engels, of communism as a society of freely associated producers, and re-emphasize the importance of understanding the development of human society in terms of class struggles. Finally, we point out that socialism - the transition period between capitalism and communism - must be one of the progressive empowerment of people, and accordingly must be as genuinely democratic as conditions allow. (Formal democracy isn't enough - it is necessary that, increasingly, people directly control all aspects of their lives, and this means fundamentally changing social relationships.) Immediately, then, the test of relevance of Marxist politics in practice is whether such politics do indeed serve to advance present struggles for decent living conditions and against repression at home and abroad, toward the transformation of our (capitalist) society to a democratic, socialist society.

However, one cannot judge Marxist politics simply by the vigor and effectiveness with which Marxists lead progressive struggles. One needs also to ask, to where are these politics leading us? If the methods and goals of the leaders are not directed toward empowering people, then how can we follow them to a socialist society? It is, after all, the masses rather than the leaders who make history (to repeat a stock maxim of Marxism), and if these particular Marxists are working toward establishing a one-party dictatorship - the traditional goal of "classical Marxism" - by no means can we allow ourselves to follow in their footsteps.

Thus the question of the political relevance of Marxism must also include an examination of the Marxist vision of socialism. Concretely, to what extent will democracy flourish



Ron Jacobs

"Those who rejoice in victory, delight in killing." -- Tao Te Ching, no. 31

The picture off the wire showing bombed and burnt out shells of thousands of fleeing Iraqi vehicles and the remains of their occupants (3/1/91) haunts me, as it should all humanity. Not content with a peace offer and retreat, the U.S.-led military killed thousands in this firestorm from the sky. The U.S. wanted, and got, a complete and total military victory. Not a Soviet peace plan, but a victory in the slaughter. With a Soviet settlement, the U.S. could not reign supreme. Like Hitler, the Bush new world order means complete domination

ish under socialism? How will the defeated capitalists be treated? What role is to be played by the "middle class"? Is there to be some sort of working-class vanguard party giving political leadership, and what will be its role, and how will it function, in the new society? For the particular view of Marxism which we are espousing, we shall take up these questions in next month's column.

Dave, a regular columnist for Works In Progress is a member of the National Coalition for Independent Political Action and is a boy scout.

MEET THE NEW ORDER, SAME AS THE OLD

in "peace" and in war.

In the world of 1990's global corporatism, the U.S. military is the new Pinkerton security force. Their job, like the Pinkertons of old, is to intimidate, threaten, and, if necessary, subdue and kill unruly elements in the transnational "company's" sphere of influence. Sometimes this requires making war on a smaller, unruly state; and sometimes it means a police action against a popular movement. Saddam Hussein's attempt to compete on equal terms with the U.S. by invading Kuwait was much like a small time oilman daring to compete with John D. Rockefeller. Consequently, his company was virtually liquidated. Likewise, the popu-

being re-elected by a reduced electorate composed of those who believe the system works enforces their silence.

However, there is opposition. Although somewhat confused and sometimes at odds with itself, it does exist. The massive antiwar actions before the war and immediately after its outbreak prove this. The confusion in the days following -- prompted in large part by the government call to support the troops -- proves the lack of a consistent understanding in the movement. Although many in the movement continue to insist that support for the troops meant the same thing before and after battle was engaged, much of the populace felt other-

It's not only the wars of the "new world order" that need to be challenged, it's the "new world order" itself.

lar movements for democracy and against transnational domination in El Salvador, the Philippines, and elsewhere are, in essence, labor struggles conducted across national boundaries.

The Bush wars on Panama and Iraq serve as excellent metaphors for his "new world order". Nothing short of complete domination and humiliation of all foes to the transnational corporate agenda will suffice. The attempts at compromise, after all, allowed situations like that in Nicaragua to occur. Even after the CIA manipulated elections of a year ago and ten years of U.S. supported rightist subversion, the Sandinistas remain the strongest popular political power in the country. The picture of Noriega languishing in jail and Hussein's armies beating a rapid retreat in the face of U.S.-led terror bombing and overwhelming military might is the new world order, not Violetta Chamorro and Daniel Ortega hugging each other.

Here at home this order means the veto of civil rights bills, anti-abortion laws, enhanced rape of the environment in the name of profit, and the refusal to address our pressing social ills except with more police and prisons. Instead, our tax dollars are being used to pay off bad loans made by rich savings and loans officers who play golf at country clubs while the poor go to jail for stealing food. While unemployment jumps, the super corporations who brought us the war begin to rebuild one of the countries their bombs destroyed -- making hundreds of millions of dollars in the process. Those of us who speak out against this agenda are called anti-democratic and out of touch. With the media's assistance, the bill of rights is ignored and challenged without any substantial opposition from elected officials. Their fear of not

wise. In my mind support meant: support GI resistance, bring them home, disarm them, and let them live lives like the rest of us. In other words, support them as humans, not as warriors.

Even though the shooting war has stopped, the movement must continue. If we truly believe peace is not possible without justice, we should continue to educate and organize around a program for justice here and overseas. Our foe remains the same, only temporarily strengthened and a bit harder to challenge, at least head on. The transnational corporate agenda will continue to be supported and decided by the limitations of the U.S. military. Although its current cockiness and "success" may well limit challenges to its power in the short run, we must remain firmly opposed to the military state in all its guises.

Locally, the Olympia Anti-Intervention Coalition plans to continue (under the name Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace) organizing and supporting actions, forums, and whatever else it takes to expose and challenge the "new world order". Of course, other local and national groups will continue their work, as well. Please attend these events. Even better, give one of the groups a call and help out. It's not only the wars of the "new world order" that need to be challenged, it's the "new world order" itself. It is up to us to provide that challenge.

Ron is a peace and justice activist, who contributes monthly to Works In Progress.

May deadline for article submissions to Works In Progress:

April 17

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(Weekend, cont.)

east of the Cascades would have to cut down on the water they use or pay higher prices. They are resisted by others because people west of the Cascades would have to cut down on the energy they use, or pay higher prices. The spectre of resurrecting one or more of the WPPSS plants is being raised in the proposed vision of northwest energy planning drafted by the Northwest Power Planning Council. Underlying all of this is the fear of being unable to provide jobs for people

who are currently employed by interests whose profits are tied to damaging the ecosystems which support life.

It is clear that some long term thinking is required to address the problems caused by the way we are living in this region. Last year, the state's Department of Ecology launched an ambitious project to explore the question of what Washington State would be like in the year 2010. During the course of the project, it became apparent that some sort of practical application

of the ideas arising from the 2010 study would be necessary if the ideas were to make the big move from paper to reality. Thus it was that the Department of Ecology invited the city of Olympia to become a model city, to study the problems and work out solutions to help define how urban Americans can live in balance with the land. Olympia is to become a sustainable city.

What is a sustainable city? Jim McGrath set forth a list of character-

viding free bus service.

The Earth Day celebration kicks off Friday night, April 19, with a concert by Walking Jim Stoltz at the Evergreen State College. Walking Jim has walked all over the country. He plays guitar, sings, tells stories and shows slides of his many adventures.

The Earth Day Opening Ceremony will take place on Saturday April 20, with a tree planting ceremony at Percival Landing, a min-

Bikers Welcome on Earth Day

On Saturday and Sunday, April 20th and 21st 12:30 PM — The Thurston County Energy Outreach Center will sponsor Earth Day bicycle rides to celebrate Earth Day '91 and kick off their Fourth Annual Bicycle Commuting Contest. Cyclists of all levels are encouraged to participate. The fun rides will start and finish at Earth Expo: Percival Landing on Saturday and Sylvester Park on Sunday. Refreshments will be available for participants. To participate bring your bike, your friends, your family and meet us at the park at 12:15. Bring a water bottle and don't forget your helmet!

Bicycle Commuting Contest

At the Earth Day Ride you can also sign up for Thurston County's Fourth Annual Bicycle Commuting Contest. This is a month long (May 1st-31st) event to encourage workers and students to "pedal" their way to gasoline savings, a cleaner environment and better health. This year's

contest emphasizes riders' consistency. Terrific gift certificates from local shops will be awarded depending on how consistently you bicycle commute and what your ending mileage is. This is a contest to get you on your bike! You simply keep track of how often you pedal to and from work or school. To register, fill out an entry form at the Earth Day Ride or contact the Energy Outreach Center for information and an entry form. The entry fee is \$10.

The Energy Outreach Center is a non-profit walk-in/phone-in hub where you can get answers to your questions on how to save energy by using: the sun for space heating, water heating, and generating electricity; energy efficient home design and construction practices; energy efficient appliances and materials; recycling; and bicycling. Their address is 503 W. 4th Avenue, Olympia, WA 98502; phone 943-4595.

... Earth Day celebration which will focus on sustainability as a way to meet our needs as a community without jeopardizing the prospects of future generations.

istics in an article entitled *Green Cities: Partners in a Sustainable Bioregion*, as summarized in a leaflet issued by Olympia's Earth Day Committee. "People live, shop and work in their neighborhoods. Most travel is by foot or bicycle with bus and rail connecting these integrated neighborhoods. High density, mixed use buildings reduce sprawl and auto travel. Neighborhoods serve as cultural and political centers. Communal spaces abound, such as plazas, outdoor cafes and markets, community gardens and greenbelts. There is lots of greenery in backyard, rooftop and streetside gardens. Creeks and wildlife habitat are threaded through town. The community is more self-reliant in food or energy: people eat locally grown food, use more energy from renewable resources, conserve and recycle what they use. People are involved in governing their neighborhoods, restoring habitat, teaching children about their environment, caring for each other participating in local art and culture."

How do we get there from here? The city staff assigned to the project figure that Earth Day 1991 is a good place to start. They are working with the South Puget Environmental Education Clearing House (SPEECH), members of several local environmental organizations and members of the Evergreen community to coordinate an Earth Day celebration which will focus on sustainability as a way to meet our needs as a community without jeopardizing the prospects of future generations.

Earth Day activities will cover three days, April 19-21. The committee hopes it will be a community celebration, and has planned all the events to take place in downtown Olympia so they will be accessible to everyone. Intercity Transit is pro-

gling of waters from various streams in the region and formal initiation of the Olympia sustainable city project.

From Percival Landing, the cavalcade of Earth Day celebrants will move to the Olympia Center, where most of Saturday's events will take place. There will be several panel presentations, including a discussion of the concept of sustainability, a panel on how to go about setting up alternative housing and living arrangements, and panel discussions of alternative transportation and energy sources. There will be storytelling and films/videos interspersed with the panel discussions. Tables with exhibits and light food will be available all day. A contra dance is being planned for Saturday night. The exact times of the panel discussions and the location of the contra dance were not confirmed at press time.

Sunday, April 21, is envisioned as a day of healing the earth. Tentatively, most of the activities will take place in or around Sylvester Park, if it is not raining. There will be an ecumenical "Earth-Spirit" service, currently scheduled for 11 a.m. There will also be drumming, however the details are not yet set. During the afternoon, there will be a community potlatch. Tentative plans call for the Earth Day Committee to provide a meal of rice and beans, staple foods of third world nations, with members of the community brings goods and food to share with the homeless. When they are confirmed, exact details of the celebrations will be available in posters around town and various media.

For information on the Sustainable City Project call Dorothy Craig (City of Olympia) 753-8314. For information on the Earth Day celebration call Gita Moulton at SPEECH, 786-6349.

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Works In Progress, c/o TCRC, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507

Thurston County Rainbow Coalition 2nd Annual Membership Meeting Sat., May 4, 1991, 10am-3pm Thurston County Courthouse "Turning Our Priorities Around"

TCRC Annual Meeting Pre-registration Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

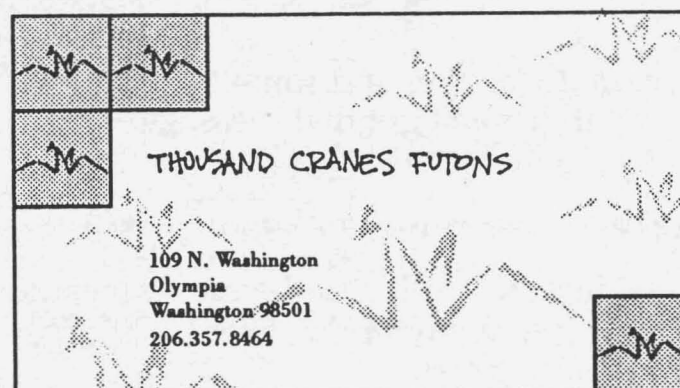
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Need childcare: _____ Ages of Children _____

Mail to TCRC, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507 no later than April 30, 1991. For more info call Todd at 352-1877.



United Effort Needed to Save the Earth

Dave Zink

There are many benefits that come with social activism. There are peaks and valleys, frustrations and victories. Usually, there's a certain satisfaction that comes from knowing you're participating in the struggle to make your world a better place. If you've ever contributed to, or been a member of, any national organi-



zation, you've no doubt been blessed with one of these benefits.

For fundraising purposes, some groups exchange their mailing lists. (This is understandable: we live, after all, in a capitalist cash flow society, and a group has to pay its bills to stay alive and effective.) So we end up with fund-raising letters, also known as "junk mail" in our mail box, often from some very worthwhile groups. While it would be great to help them all out financially, a finite income forces us to prioritize. Tough choices. The following is a response I recently sent to one such appeal.

Dear Mr. Sutherland:

I received your letter yesterday, asking that I renew my membership and continue my financial support to the Defense Fund. I hope the enclosed contribution, while not as much as you requested, will help your group in its important work. I'd like to explain why I'm not sending more. I am presently a member and supporter of several organizations that, like yours, are active in the struggle to protect Mother Earth, her wildlife habitat, and other resources. Some of these groups are also in great financial need. As you said so well in your letter, "We're up against powerful foes . . . many with unlimited resources." We have some strategic choices that must be made. We can continue to fight isolated battles to protect our air, water, and wildlife. If so, we will continue to face the same powerful

opponents, over and over: the profit first, excessively exploitive corporations. Or, we could make an honest assessment of the situation, smarten up, and recognize that the growing list of insults to our environment are not really separate, isolated quirks and glitches. We can no longer afford to treat them as such. They are the rule, not the exception. They are the result of the normal operation of a social and economic system that needs to be replaced. An effective, integrated response is required.

In brief, capitalist land and environmental ethics have proven repeatedly to be against our best interests. Its time to make some fundamental systemic changes. It is time for a new paradigm: one that is both radical (defined in my dictionary as "going to the root or origin of a problem") and conservative in the best sense of that term: "Tending to preserve that which is worthy". A paradigm that recognizes that land, and all our resources, are not mere commodities for the enrichment of a few, and the impoverishment of the rest of us. From this flows an emphasis on cooperative,

not corporate solutions. Too many people have been misled by corporate interests. The major, corporate-owned, media is often the only source of news and opinion in many areas. This has resulted in a prevailing ignorance of how this society operates and mystifies the causes of problems. One example is the way the timber interests have

... we can continue in futile attempts to put out individual brush fires . . . We need to address these issues in an integrated fashion if we are to truly improve our quality of life.

successfully turned the public outcry against the rape of our northwestern ancient forests into a "jobs versus the spotted owl" issue. Yes, Mr. Sutherland: "powerful foes, unlimited finances."

I urge you to seriously consider the points I raise in this letter.

People are looking for a better way. If we are ever going to win against this ruling class, we must start a serious education campaign

on the real, underlying causes of the environmental crisis. Or, we can continue in futile attempts to put out individual brush fires... We need to address these issues in an integrated fashion if we are to truly improve our quality of life. For example, the New Democratic Party (NDP), a broadly-based, democratic socialist formation, recently won a majority in the provincial parliament in Ontario, Canada. NDP administrations in British Colum-

bia, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba have taken steps that have been so popular that Conservatives have failed in their attempts to roll back these gains.

Viable class-conscious labor parties exist in other countries. Why not here?

I'd also like to recommend Barry Commoner's book, "Making Peace with the Planet", for a more thorough and enlightening discussion than has been possible here.

Dave Zink is a community activist, who works for the Department of Ecology and lives in Pierce County.

SPEECH Celebrates 1st Year

Rob Richie

In April the South Puget Environmental Education Clearinghouse (SPEECH) celebrates its first year of keeping its downtown Olympia doors open to the community and acting as a resource and information center for local environmentalists. With its well-received monthly newsletter *Green Pages*, its environmental directory to the South Sound the *Green Guide* and its 300 plus individual members and 22 membership groups, the volunteer-run center's future existence is assured.

But SPEECH's volunteers are working to make sure that SPEECH does more than just exist. Interim paid staffer Rob Richie seeks to expand membership, coordinate creation of a Board of Directors and monitor volunteer projects, while founder Gita Moulton has shrugged off her award of "Conservationist of the Year" from the Black Hills Audubon Society and plunged into planning events in honor of Earth Day on April 20th and 21st. Other projects underway include the Legislative Action committee that monitors the state legislature and

the Education Committee that collects environmental education curricula and shares it with local teachers.

With its office and volunteer resources and its accessibility to the public, SPEECH could house any number of such projects by already existing environmental group and energetic individuals. SPEECH volunteers urge people to talk to them about their ideas, as such educational activities are all the more important after last year's election defeat of the charter and key environmental initiatives. Some government officials are helpful, but it is up to active and educated citizens to look out for poorly planned development and destructive environmental practices.

For more information on SPEECH and upcoming events in the environmental community — particularly Earth Day events at the Olympia Center on April 21 — please stop by SPEECH at 218 W. 4th Ave. on Tuesday-Friday, Noon-6 pm or call 786-6349.

Rob is an activist on all fronts, including the environment and voting procedures (i.e. proportional representation).

Earth Walk

To kick off events leading to the 21st celebration of Earth Day on April 20-21, SPEECH is sponsoring the First Annual SPEECH Walk for the Earth on Saturday, April 13 (or April 14 in the event of a downpour).

Adventurous walkers will wend their way along some 15 miles of park trails and city streets, beginning in Priest Point Park and continuing past such places of environmental import as Rolling Fields, Watershed Park, Olympia City Hall, the Cascade Pole hazardous waste site, the Port of Olympia, SPEECH, the Food Co-op, Grass Lake, the Auto Mall, the Thurston County Courthouse, Deschutes Creek and the Capitol Campus. Annotated maps are available to explain the significance of sights along the route.

Walkers can collect two types of pledges: one for each mile they themselves walk and another for each walker who completes the entire route. Money raised will go to SPEECH's Earth Day efforts and environmental education projects.

If you would like to make a pledge, help with special events planned during the Walk or participate in the Walk, please call Rob Richie at 786-6349 or stop by SPEECH. See Olympia as you've never seen it before!



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Revelations from the Third National Green Gathering

Mark Satin

Ed. Note - Mark Satin's article was edited for use in WIP by Curt Pavola

This country is more than ready for a post-liberal, post-socialist, Greenish political party. Nearly everybody now knows (on some level of their being) that we can't go on this way: we can't keep piling up debt, we can't keep destroying the environment, we can't keep ignoring the Third World, we can't keep relying on growth to solve our problems and technology to shape our future.

[Last September] I attended the third national Green Gathering, at a YMCA camp in the Colorado Rockies, and what I saw shook my confidence in the U.S. Greens as a credible, competent vehicle for change. It also made me reassess my [political] life choices. [Satin states that the Greens had three goals at the Gathering: to rewrite their platform and establish a process to ratify it, to figure out how to relate to Native Americans, African Americans, and other "minorities," and to restructure the organization.] **The Platform.** There is such an avoidance of hierarchy in the Greens, and such an avoidance of information that might suggest a hierarchy, that few of them knew that [one speaker on the first day of the gathering], Christa Slaton, was an accomplished political scientist with a book on 21st century democracy about to be published. What they did know was that Slaton was head of the Greens' platform-writing committee, and that she'd performed heroically in that role for over a year, coordinating input from dozens of chapters nationwide. [T]hey listened to her intently.

On the surface, it was a rah-rah kind of speech, but many Greens

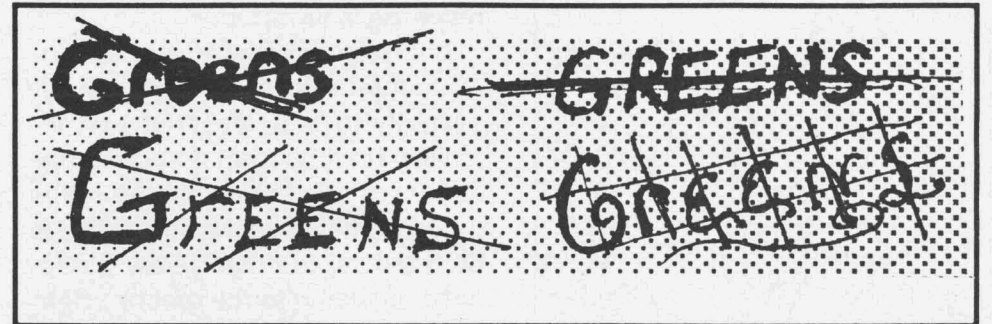
noticed a tone of annoyance, even exasperation, as when she emphasized that facilitating the Greens' platform-writing process was "one of the most difficult things I've done in my life," or when she said the thing that "kept me going" was there were so many "good souls here." More than a few Greens wondered what was going on under Slaton's superenthusiastic exterior.

In fact, she was seething. In her local Green groups she'd noticed that many Greens liked to tear down other people's work, but few liked to actually do the work. Now she felt the pattern was repeating itself on the national level.

An Insight. The most memorable speaker after Slaton was Danny Moses, an editor at Sierra Club Books whose inspirational speeches and calm, centered presence had helped keep the Greens on track through their previous national Gatherings. This time his inspirational speech contained a few new twists. He characterized our national leaders as vicious, greedy fools. And he

spect for Moses, I felt the vicious-fools-and-Real-People bit was dangerously arrogant. I remembered telling myself how Special I was when I worked for various embattled and ineffective organizations. It helped keep me going. But it also helped keep me from being able to reach people.

Restructuring. Literally from the



day after the Greens were founded in 1984, they had been meeting to restructure themselves. Several restructurings had already taken place. But by the summer of 1990 everyone wanted to restructure the organization again.

The Interregional Committee (IC), the Green's vehicle for ongoing national coordination, had become a

Literally from the day after the Greens were founded in 1984, they had been meeting to restructure themselves. Several restructurings had already taken place. But by the summer of 1990 everyone wanted to restructure the organization again.

claimed that--because of their spiritual understandings and sense of solidarity--the Greens were among the "Real People" (a concept he borrowed from the Iroquois). Not surprisingly, he received a standing ovation.

I didn't stand. Despite my re-

"bureaucrat's heaven and an activist's nightmare," according to one open letter signed by nine Green activists, "torturous marathons trying to reach consensus on administrative trivia while the issues of the day go unaddressed." In another missive, Charles Betz--co-author of one of the restructuring proposals--observed that "The [last] IC had only 10 voting representatives [present] out of a possible total of 70!"

On the last day of the Gathering [and after many rounds of discussion about whether to adopt the restructuring proposals currently before them or to form a new committee to re-draft proposals that would be sent to the local Green chapters for approval], the plenary elected a new 10-person committee to launch a new restructuring process.

I wish the new process well. But after seven years I cannot take it altogether seriously. The Greens don't even have by-laws yet, or a fund-raising capacity, or an accountable leadership structure. Something more fundamental than process or knowledge must be holding them back. I suspect it has something to do with many Greens' mistrust of--name one--expertise/hierarchy/efficiency/

rules/power/worldly success. I've been Pure before. It's pretty satisfying. But it's more important to be effective in the world.

The Platform. The Greens broke up into small groups to consider each [of the 23 sections of the platform to be finalized for ratification by the local chapters.]

Like most of the groups, "Life Forms and Animal Rights" met in a small log cabin. The 15 delegates began by taking turns identifying their favorite animals, personal heroes, and earliest memories. Then someone suggested they choose a spokesperson by having everyone

stand up and put their hands on the shoulders of the person they preferred. Several people objected, and a long discussion about process followed.

[In this, and other, section discussions], you couldn't fault the Greens for their sincerity, or their willingness to take each other's views into account. But watching their exercise in platform-writing left me feeling both sad and angry.

The Green platform will fall far short of being [their desperately needed, and manifestly deserved, forum for Green thought]. Most of the [nearly 200] Greens at the Gathering just didn't have the background to bring the best, freshest Green thinking to the table; truth be told, most of them were better versed in left-wing thought than in Green thought; and of course, Greens would never think of inviting "experts" (even their own experts) to do some of their work for them. That smacks too much of hierarchy and (gasp!) elitism.

There is something beautiful about letting anyone who wants to help write a platform, do so. It is the kind of democracy that even Jefferson never dreamed of. But it is a mistake to confuse that kind of loveliness with crafting a political movement.

[The day after the small group sessions], each of the 23 platform planks were briefly discussed, and voted up or down (a 25% vote was sufficient to vote a plank down). The discussions were even more superficial than those in the small groups--the severe time constraints saw to that.

[At this point, Satin describes a major confrontation over process between the platform chair, Christa Slaton, and delegate Lauren Sargent. Sargent wanted the platform to be sent to each individual Green for approval instead of Slaton's suggestion to send it to the local Green chapters. By the end of the Gathering, Slaton had informed the other delegates she was quitting the Greens.]

For seven years the Greens had been saying they were moving so

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slow because they--unlike other political groups--were committed to treating their members as Human Beings. But sitting there watching Slaton and Sargent and the others, and remembering the vast cast of characters that had passed through the Greens over the years, never to return, I could no longer believe that the Greens had any kind of special handle on sensitivity to others.

Rainbow Greens. About 30 Greens, including most of the informal leadership, met to discuss building coalitions with people of color. They called their group the "Rainbow Greens" (after their goal, not their composition--only three or four of them were non-white).

Danny Moses and Roberto Mendoza, a Native American activist, opened the meeting. Then John Rensenbrink, [a Bedowin professor and long-time Green], said their remarks weren't very "practical." Then there was a kind of uprising--everyone wanted a woman to speak. So they called on Irene Diamond, Jewish intellectual co-editor of an anthology on ecofeminism.

She said that what Moses and Mendoza had said was very important, since it was based on the wisdom of grassroots women, peasant people and indigenous peoples. She added that she thought Rensenbrink's remarks were more mainstream, but that both perspectives were needed.

At that, Kwazi Nkrumah [a black delegate from California] got very upset. He said Diamond had "condensed" everything, and defended Rensenbrink. He screamed, "I am not a peasant people!" And stormed out. Linda Dallas, of the North Carolina Greens (and the only other black in the room), said she was appalled by people's inability to be "real." Why are you making an agenda for making contact with people of color? Why don't you all just start doing it--first and foremost on an individual level?

"I think we're unbelievably constipated by talk and theory," said Mindy Lorenz, a write-in candidate for Congress from California. An activist from Detroit said that only women and gay people seemed to be real here.

"People here have been implored to be real," said Moses. "But people are real here in different ways. We need to recognize that." Moses's comment was one of the few I heard that wasn't riddled with blame, anger, guilt and/or self-flagellation.

Nkrumah had been an activist in the black community since the late 60s, when he was given his name by his high school classmates. It is not difficult to imagine why, in 1990,

Somebody Has To Do It

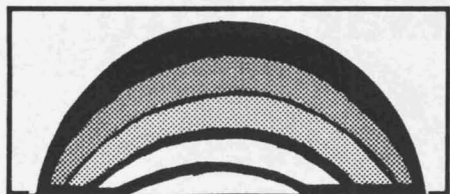
Dan McGrady

Solutions for the problems facing us today: a recession, rising unemployment, crowded classrooms, a poisoned environment, hate crimes, etc. are not going to be created in either the State Legislature or in Congress. The primary reason is that President Bush on the national level and the Republican controlled Senate in Olympia have pledged to kill any Legislation that might solve these and other problems.

Unfortunately, we can't count on the Democrats to help anyone, let alone themselves. Those democrats who opposed the war weren't supported very effectively. Moreover, many good Rainbow type Democrats, like Mike Lowry have been pretty silent about the war. I suppose it's hard to vocally oppose a "popular" war and retain any chance for re-election.

Now that the war is over, people in the grassroots need to transform their energies and organizations to create humane foreign and domestic policies. It is obvious that all the manufactured hoopla and good feelings about the war won't solve the problems that face us, no matter how many times the media and those in power focus on it. We must take the initiative!

While the Democrats are scram-



bling to find someone to run against Bush (which is a nice thought), issues are being forgotten. We in the Rainbow Coalition and other progressive groups need to put social and economic priorities in the forefront of our activities.

The Thurston County Rainbow

he'd feel an almost unbearable frustration and rage. But no serious political organization can afford to recreate the 1990's dynamic of guilty whites and raging blacks. And no organization should want to. The freshest and most challenging black spokespeople today have put guilting and rage behind them (at least in their public personas). They are speaking of new paths to black self-esteem, new models for black self-help, new approaches to black-white integration.

The Greens could and should have been one of the first political

Coalition's Issues/Policy Committee plans to continue organizing around issues and build coalitions of like-minded folks who want to change the way things are. We must force the candidates to follow the issues, not the other way around.

We haven't given up on the Legislature, yet. We realized once again, too late though, that we must organize earlier to have a real impact in the Legislature. We still can do some good things this time, but we need to be going year 'round to have an impact not only here in Olympia, but nationally as well. There are several things we can do right away

... people in the grassroots need to transform their energies and organizations to create humane foreign and domestic policies.

to make a difference. Just making a call or sending a letter to your Legislator on several issues can make an important difference. (Legislative Hotline - 1-800-562-6000. Operators are available to take comments Monday through Friday 8 am-8pm and Saturday 9am-1pm.)

The following bills directly affect Hispanics and other people of color or sexual orientation. Call Carmen Navarro for more information at 753-3159.

HB1263 which would drop citizenship requirement for teachers.

SB5154 which deals with the employment of minors.

HB1378 would increase the filing fee for civil actions to provide more legal services for indigents.

HB1567 would provide pesticide protection for agricultural workers. SHB1255 would expand the jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission.

HB1023 is the Governor's education reform bill.

groups to invite these new voices in. The constant presence, instead, of the 60's dynamic was to me a sure sign that the Greens lack the maturity and self-confidence to deal with the race issue.

An Insight. I enjoyed myself at the Gathering. I met wonderful people, had great conversations. But after it was over I felt empty inside, for I knew--as certainly as one can know these things--that the U.S. Greens would never affect the political life of our time.

For seven years I'd been trying to convince myself that they might, just might break out of their ghetto. But I no longer believed it, even at 2 a.m. with friends. I knew this, and yet it hurt me deeply to accept it and act on it. For whatever I may think of their internal battles and political prospects, the Greens are My People. Their life choices are my life choices; their failings mirror my own.

When I was a teenager and decided not to chase after power and privilege, I followed a route that took

HB1037 would monitor hate crimes and malicious harassment.

Several labor bills of interest:

HB5555 would extend many basic benefits to displaced timber workers.

HB1471 is the Foundation for Families Bill which deals with mandatory overtime, unpaid family leave, increasing the minimum wage, and child labor.

HB1725 deals with Hazardous Substances Notification in the work place.

SANE/FREEZE is asking people to support funding for The Community Diversification Program.

Kimberly Wilson is working for the United Farmworkers to help make the workplace safer. Call her

at 754-7790.

The TCRC Issues Committee is looking for issues to take on and more people to take action. Please call Dan McGrady at 943-0990 for more information.

* * *

The Thurston County Rainbow coalition Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, May 4th at the Thurston County Courthouse. The theme will be "Turning our Priorities Around: Working Towards Jobs, Peace, Justice and a Healthy Environment". We will hold elections for officers and have a membership drive for new and continuing members. The public is invited to attend, and other organizations may have information tables for the public. Registration form is on page 14 or call 943-0990.

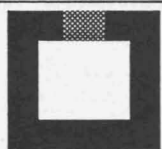
Dan is co-coordinator of the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition and is so close, oh so close, to being a graduate of The Evergreen State College.

me inexorably to the Greens. To accept that the Greens are never going to make it is tantamount to accepting that many of my life choices were not so smart.

I know how to deal with this on a professional level. [New Options will] devote more coverage to Greenish trends in effective real-world organizations like NOW, the Sierra Club and the NAACP.

I am less certain how to deal with this on a personal level. What do you do, exactly, when you realize that many times in your life you've chosen posturing over power, marginality over privilege--all in the name of some abstract political "correctness"?

Mark Satin is the editor of New Options Magazine. If you would like a free sample issue of New Options, and/or the entire text of the above article, write to Mark Satin at P.O. Box 19324, Washington, D.C. 20036. U.S. Greens can be reached at P.O. Box 30208, Kansas City, MO 64112.



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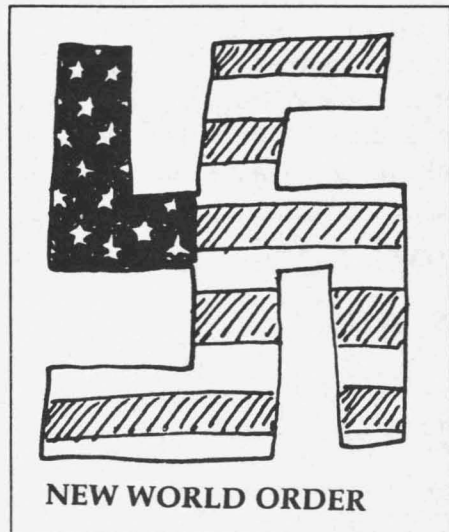
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Will there be a solution to the Palestinian Issue?

Jason Summers

As the post Gulf war era is now just beginning, everyone seems to be wondering what exactly this new world order is gonna look like. The anti-war movement that



Georgie Boy says doesn't exist, is definitely in a period of shall we say, "reassessment". I guess the war mongers did learn something from Vietnam and how to deal with domestic dissent, and that was to go in fast and furious as opposed to a slow escalation that would allow for an opposition movement to build. Everyone in the anti-war camp did seem to think that the war would last much longer and that we would have more time to build up our ranks. But we didn't! And now we must sit through a nauseating post war euphoria

while the media assault our common senses with a patriotic fervor that is quite unbelievable.

Since the war ended, the Israeli/Palestinian conflict has hit the news again. While the Bush administration adamantly opposed any talk of linking the Palestinian crisis with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, it is curious to see Bush and James Baker making overtures to solving the dilemma now that the war is over. What we hear in the media is limited to stories about Secretary of State Baker meeting with Israeli and Palestinian representatives and the United States' renewed commitment to solving the conflict peacefully. Are we really supposed to believe that? Since the 1967 Arab/Israeli war the U.S. has consistently blocked any settlement to the Palestinian crisis to the point of vetoing a number of United Nations resolutions. The U.S. and Israel have stood alone in the world in preventing a settlement to the conflict.

It would be naive to think that now of all times the United States has seen the errors of its ways and is legitimately concerned about the Palestinian's light. In fact, the administration's new peace initiative is not new at all and is still aimed at getting the Arab States and the Palestinians themselves to renounce the

PLO. If it is true that right now is one of the weakest moments in the history of the movement for the Palestinian Statehood then it just may be an opportune time for the U.S. and Israel to attempt a settlement, one that would no doubt be in their favor. But even if the United States would be willing to work on this conflict objectively, would Israel really be willing to come to a settlement?

Much that one hears of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and its history is in reference to the 1967 Arab/Israeli war. In that war Israel

Sami Hadawi, author of *Bitter harvest, a Modern History of Palestine*, details the long running visions of Zionist territorial aims. Zionist aims as Hadawi documents were established early on by the father of Zionism, Theodor Herzl, when he said "our slogan shall be - The Palestine of David and Solomon." Biblical references and prophecy were and of course still are very strong in regards to the "Jewish State". And Zionist plans for the state's territory were and still are larger than the present borders.

In 1948, just before Israel was to

Flapan states that "from the end of World War II to 1952, Israel turned down successive proposals made by Arab States and neutral mediators that might have brought about an accommodation".

took over the West Bank from Jordan, Gaza Strip and the Sinai peninsula from Egypt, and the Golan Heights from Syria (the Sinai was given back to Egypt in the Camp David agreements of 1978-79). The 1967 war indeed pointed the finger directly to the expansionist designs of the state of Israel, but the war was not the beginning of expansion, just merely a reflection of it. The expansionist policies of the state of Israel are rooted in Zionism reaching back to the early part of the century.

become an independent state, Jewish militias began to expel Arab inhabitants within the proposed state borders and also to push the borders outward to give the new state more territory. This created the first major wave of the refugee problem that is central to the crisis today. After what Israeli history calls the "War of Independence" and Arabs term the "War of Conquest", the new state of Israel occupied much more territory than had been granted by

(Continued next page.)

America Wins War, And Hatred Of The Arab

David Price

This past week the Olympian ran editorials ridiculing the "nay-sayer" of the Gulf War. The message of these articles was now that peace has arrived these pessimists have disappeared, cowering, their claims disproved by the events transpired. The nay-sayers were represented as wanting "peace at any price", not as individuals who see the scope of the war beyond the issues of Iraq and Kuwait. I am a nay-sayer, and I wish to be held accountable for my claims that the war will lead to increased Middle Eastern instability and that American interests in the region will most certainly not be in a better position than they were before the war.

This has been a short sighted war which has generated a new sense of euphoria here at home. It's great that we all feel better about ourselves, but his can't change the repercussions which will follow our troops' actions. There is no reason to believe an American military victory can be converted into a political victory in the region.

The war is the result of a reckless policy which has not fully considered how our actions will be interpreted throughout the Arab World. In these terms, the war is not over. After our troops come home, the war will smolder and then rage on. The

Bush administration is politically well advised to get the troops out of the region as soon as possible. With some amount of spin control, our military and political leaders will be able to disassociate themselves from the calamities which will follow. In the media we can expect an increase

and the mistrust of the Arab world.

The war will strengthen the position of Islamic fundamentalists throughout the Middle East. There is nothing resembling western democracy anywhere in the region and vast numbers of impoverished peasants find their only chance of peace and hope in their religion, not in their viciously repressive governments.

Throughout the Middle East the news of 100,000 Iraqis killed by what

While the American press admits it does not understand the "Arab mind", it also makes little effort to comprehend how these events will be interpreted throughout the Arab world.

in rhetoric claiming the Middle East is an inherently unstable region. Explanations will be racial, climatological, religious, cultural, historical, political, but few will link the resulting instability and flood of Islamic fundamentalism to our military actions.

While the American press admits it does not understand the "Arab mind", it also makes little effort to comprehend how these events will be interpreted throughout the Arab world. I have lived and traveled throughout the Middle East, and while at home in the States I regularly read a variety of Arabic newspapers. My reading of the situation is that America has won the war,

are interpreted as American bombs is creating unprecedented lives of anti-American sentiments. There is general distrust of America because of our past failure to back or enforce U.N. resolutions critical of Israel. There is a widespread belief that America backed Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for financial rather than ethical concerns.

David Price, currently a Olympia resident, is an anthropologist who speaks and reads Arabic and lived this past year in Egypt's Fayoum Oasis conducting research under a U.S. Science Foundation grant.

Upcoming Local Mideast Events:

MIDDLE EAST FORUM

Questions to be addressed by the panel include:

Do we know the total cost of the Gulf War?

What do we know about Arab people and the Middle East?

What can we do?

Asad Bushnaq of the Middle East Peace Coalition will address Israeli/Palestinian issues.

Tuesday, April 2, 7pm

United Churches

110 E 11th (off Capitol Way)

Free childcare available.

Sponsored by the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace.

Information: 357-8346

TWO FILMS FOCUSING ON ARAB/JEWISH RELATIONS

"Arab & Jew" and "Beyond the Wall"

Thursday, April 4th, 7pm and 9pm

The Evergreen State College, Lecture Hall 3

Sponsored by Ma'arava

Information: 866-6000 ext. 6493

(Palestinian, cont.)

the United Nations partition plan.

The 1956 war of Israel, Britain, and France against Egypt is another example of Israeli historical opportunism and expansion. The Suez war only lasted a few days but was clearly provoked by Israel and its European allies. Israel occupied the Sinai and the Gaza Strip but was eventually forced to leave only after the threat of economic sanctions from the United States. The U.S. did not repeat this policy after Israel's 1967 conquests but had actually planned the war in secret with Israel.

Simha Flapan in his book *The Birth of Israel*, does an excellent job in dispelling some of the most enduring myths about the state of Israel and how these myths are what current Israeli policies rest on. Flapan's research covers the period immediately before and after the declaration of the state of Israel in 1948. One of these myths is that Israel's hand has always been extended in peace but that there has been no response from the Arab world. Flapan states that "on the contrary, from the end of World War II to 1952, Israel turned down successive proposals made by Arab States and neutral mediators that might have brought about an accommodation". More recent history tells the same story of Israeli intransigence.

Myths about the state of Israel have gained widespread acceptance as fact and this is contributing to a misunderstanding and perpetuation of the problems. The other day in the New York Times a full page ad was taken out by the American Jewish Congress. The ad basically called on the Arab States to stop being unreasonable and "seize the moment" to build a lasting peace with Israel. The advertisement/article not so subtly implied that the main problem blocking a settlement to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict has been the hostility and irrationality of the Arab States. Just by looking at the history of Israeli aggression and expansion one might conclude that there are some very concrete reasons

why there may be hostility in the region towards Israel. The AJ Congress advertisement said "Saddam Hussein's aggression underscored the validity of Prime Minister Shamir's insistence that progress in resolving the Palestinian problem must be contingent of Israel's acceptance by the Arab world". Well, besides the fact that the PLO has recognized the State of Israel this statement is most definitely linking the Palestinian problem with the rest of the region, something the Bush administration was loathe to do during the war.

I return to the question of whether the Israeli government is really willing to negotiate in earnest and come to a lasting settlement. A settlement would mean relinquishing the occupied territories and paving the way for a two state solution. The long history of Israeli expansion, the current policy of settling Jews in the territories in large numbers, the support the United States has given Israel in its intransigence, and the myths that have built Israel into a righteous actor in the midst of Arab fanaticism all point to a continued non-solution to the crisis.

Many people are aware of the huge influence that the Jewish lobby has in this country (as evidenced by the NY Times ad) and obviously the Palestinian perspective hardly gets touched in the mainstream media. When ideas are being put into the minds of the American public about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict that are based on myths and half truths established through years of propaganda, it is not hard to see how so many people can be biased against the Palestinian cause and almost totally ignorant of the real situation. Somewhere along the line the myths, half truths, and out and out lies must be challenged where AT LEAST all sides of an issue are given equal access.

Jason has written for Works In Progress a number of times as well as for other local publications.

Mideast Peace Coalition Reading List

Understanding the situation in the Middle East is difficult even at the best of times. With the recent war and increased tensions in the Mideast, many North Americans now realize how little we know about the region. Newspaper and television coverage typically lack a sense of history and sensitivity to the concerns of people there. But don't give up! Excellent resources are available

that offer both depth and clarity. The following is a brief list of books compiled by members of the Olympia Mideast Peace Coalition. Most of the titles listed are available from the American Educational Trust, (800) 368-5788 or the Timberland library system.

Fiction:

CITIES OF SALT, Abdeirehman Munif, Random House, 1987.

Set in an unnamed Gulf state in

the 1930s, this novel explores the cultural confrontation between Arabs and Americans following the discovery of oil. A powerful statement on the disruption and diaspora of a poor oasis community.

MORNING!, Yahya Haqqi, 3 Cont. Press, 1987.

Haqqi sympathetically and realistically portrays people caught between two worlds, struggling to adapt to the profound social and economic changes introduced to the Arab countryside.

ISRAELI STORIES, Joel Blocker, Schocken, 1962.

A selection of some of the best in Israeli literature, containing stories by Nobel prize winner S.Y. Agon, Haim Hazaz, and A. Yizhar.

MEN IN THE SUN AND OTHER STORIES, Ghassan Kanafani, 3 Cont. Press, 1987.

An internationally acclaimed masterpiece of prose and a powerful, true-to-life depiction of Palestinians trying to survive their enforced exile.

For and about children:

GAVRIEL AND JEMAL: TWO BOYS OF JERUSALEM, Brent Ashabanner, photographs by Paul Conklin, New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1984.

This book offers readers a human look beyond the headlines about Mideast tensions to the daily lives of two children, a Muslim Palestinian and an Israeli Jew, growing up in a city that is holy to Jews, Muslims and Christians alike. *THE SECRET GROVE*, Barbara Cohen, illustrated by Michael J. Deraney, New York: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1985. Available from UAHC Order Dept., 838 5th Ave, New York, N.Y., 10021-7064. \$7.95 Hardcover, \$5.00 Teacher's Guide, \$1.50 postage and handling.

A subtle examination of the roots of prejudice, this story teaches young readers how hatred can be overcome when two children, an Israeli and a Jordanian, refuse to accept the stereotypes of their parents.

For four years the Mideast Peace Coalition has offered people in our community a chance to explore the Israeli/Palestinian situation and to develop understanding between people of Muslim, Jewish and Christian backgrounds. The Coalition meets regularly and sponsors a variety of educational and cultural events. Current plans include developing a speakers' bureau, information packets on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, and an outdoor Mideast Fair in Olympia this summer. For more information about the Coalition write: Mideast Peace Coalition, P.O. Box 7221, Olympia, WA 98507 or call 943-9025.

Nonfiction:

A QUESTION OF PALESTINE, Edward Said, New York: Times Books, 1979.

The famous, powerfully moving account of the plight of the Palestinian people, and the attitudes of Zionism and the West toward the Palestine question. Said offers a well reasoned understanding of the situation as well as options for peace.

ARAB AND JEW: WOUNDED SPIRITS IN A PROMISED LAND, David Shipler, Time Books, 1986.

A Pulitzer Prize-winning account of the complex relationships, shared imagery, and ethnic and religious stereotypes that have evolved between Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs.

COVERING ISLAM, Edward Said, New York: Pantheon Books, 1981.

A fascinating, well written expose of how the US media and Middle East "experts" determine how we view the Islamic world, often with distorted lenses and disastrous results.

THE BIRTH OF ISRAEL: MYTHS AND REALITIES, Simha Flapan, New York: Pantheon, 1987.

Flapan, an Israeli Jew, scholar and peace activist, reviews the his-



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That A'Way Triple A!

Partners Newsletter for Gay & Lesbian Couples

In a settlement of a Seattle human rights complaint brought by a gay man, AAA Washington has extended its requirements for "associate" membership to include domestic partners and other residents of a "primary" member's household. The auto club's board of directors approved the settlement March 14.

The discounted associate membership previously had been reserved for the primary member's spouse or dependent children age 23 and under. Effective immediately, the change will be incorporated into AAA's membership literature and direct mail advertising at its next printing, according to terms of the settlement.

Civil rights attorneys say the settlement is the first in Washington state and one of only a few nationwide to prevent a business from discriminating against same-sex

couples. It is believed to make AAA Washington the first and only AAA chapter in the nation to formally accept same-sex partners as associate members.

The settlement stems from a complaint made to the Seattle Human Rights Department March 1988 by

Civil rights attorneys say the settlement is ... believed to make AAA

Washington the first and only AAA chapter in the nation to formally accept same-sex partners as associate members.

Demian, a Seattle resident with a single legal name. In June 1990, the department determined that the former AAA policy discriminated on the basis of marital status when it told Demian that his domestic partner was ineligible for associate membership.

Primary membership in the non-profit organization costs \$45 for the

first year; \$35 for subsequent years. Associate membership cost only \$17 yearly.

Demian and his domestic partner of 10 years, Steve Bryant, purchased a AAA membership immediately following the board's decision. The two men publish the nationally distributed *Partners Newsletter for Gay & Lesbian Couples*. "We welcome the opportunity to

become AAA members under fair terms," said Demian. "It just didn't make sense to buy two full memberships for the one vehicle we share."

The human rights department rejected AAA's defense that its former policy was warranted by "tradition and economic reasons." AAA alleged that serving spouses and dependents would be less expensive than serving other household residents. The auto club subsequently resisted compliance with the law for nearly three years until the day before the matter was to have gone before a Seattle hearing examiner.

Seattle laws prohibits marital status discrimination in public accommodations. Unlike a similar state law, the Seattle ordinance specifically extends protection to co-habiting couples. Nonetheless, AAA says the new policy will apply throughout its service area, which includes Western Washington and most of Central Washington.

"We hope this settlement demonstrates to Seattle businesses that families of all descriptions - including those comprised of same-sex partners - must be afforded equal access to family discounts," said Demian. "Unfortunately, the discrimination we encountered with AAA is all too common," said Bryant, pointing to a national survey of 1,266 same-sex couples conducted by Partners.

In the study, 20 percent of the female couples and 11 percent of the male couples said they had encountered membership-related discrimination.

Partners offers a free summary of the survey results upon request. To get a copy, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to Partners resource list, Box 9685, Seattle, WA 98109.

(Farm Workers, cont.)

pesticides.

Another way to get involved is to join the grass root letter writing campaign urging the Washington State Apple Commission to voluntarily provide hygienic facilities. Write two identical letters to: Tom Hale
Wash State Apple Commission

New Group Seeks Electoral Reform

Citizens for Proportional Representation (CPR) has formed in Olympia to advocate the implementation of proportional representation electoral systems, the subject of a number of WIP stories in the past year. CPR believes that while shrinking voter turnout, shallow, negative campaigns and weak-kneed government demonstrate the clear and pressing need for electoral reform, few Americans have looked to democracies around the world to see what changes in our system would be most appropriate. Such an investigation by founding CPR members Rob Richie, Cindy Terrell and Teresa Jennings revealed that proportional representation would be the most dramatic, yet well-tested means to revive our increasingly moribund democracy.

CPR's efforts initially will focus on the use of proportional representation for the election of The Evergreen State College's student government and for the election of the Olympia City Council. The latter effort most likely will involve an initiative drive to generate dialogue on electoral reform and focus discussion on how implementing proportional representation almost certainly would result in campaigns to elect the council including more viewpoints, council members more consistently coming from diverse backgrounds and council policy developing through a more inclusive, evolutionary process.

CPR wants to make a plea to any group representing a significant "special interest" to consider adding the implementation of proportional representation to its list of priorities. Proportional representation would be constitutional and accepting of majority rule, yet would open up the democratic process to any number of reforms that in the present system are difficult to put before voters because of novelty or entrenched majority indifference.

To learn more about proportional representation or get involved in CPR's efforts, please call Rob Richie at 459-5590. Meetings to plan strategy will be held in early April.

2900 Euclid
Wenatchee, WA 98801
and
Frank DeLong
Wash State Horticultural Assoc
P.O. Box 136
Wenatchee, Washington 98807

In these letters please express your concern for farm worker health hazards as a result of pesticide use, and your own risk of pesticide exposure as a consumer. Also ask their support of the three demands listed above. For more information call the Puget Sound Community Organizer at (206) 754-7790 or the United Farm Workers of Washington at (509) 854-2161.

Kimberly Wilson is the Community Organizer for Centro Campesino, the research arm of the United Farm Workers of Washington.

TO:

WASHINGTON STATE
APPLE COMMISSION
2900 Euclid
Wenatchee, WA 98801

WASHINGTON STATE HORTICULTURAL ASSOC.
P.O. Box 136
Wenatchee, WA 98897

As citizens, we ask the apple industry to reconsider its attitudes and practices towards farm workers and pesticide usage. The apple orchard is like an industrial setting in that very toxic chemicals are used in every phase of production, from the onset at blooming to storage. As consumers, we are concerned about the amount of pesticide residues on apples and apple products. We are also alarmed at the unique exposure problems farm workers laboring in the apple orchards in Washington state must confront almost on a daily basis. Despite the high pesticide usage in the orchards and the unique exposure problems farm workers face, it is especially disturbing to know that these workers are not even provided with basic industrial hygiene protection. We also simply cannot see why this multi-million dollar industry pays such low wages, while farm workers labor under such hazardous working condition. This is even more upsetting in light of the fact that the industry raises \$18,000,000 a year to convince us that apples are such a good product.

Consequently, we believe that the industry can better influence us by doing the following:

1) Support the request farm workers are making to the Department of Labor and Industries to provide farm workers with industrial hygiene protections.

2) Adopt a pesticide reduction policy which would phase out the most dangerous pesticides and channel more of the \$18,000,000 used for advertising into development of alternatives for these pesticides.

3) Treat the farm workers with more respect by paying better wages for such hazardous work.

NAME

(signature)

ADDRESS

(print)

PLEASE RETURN PETITION TO: CENTRO CAMPESINO
1055 S. Adams #4
Olympia, WA 98501